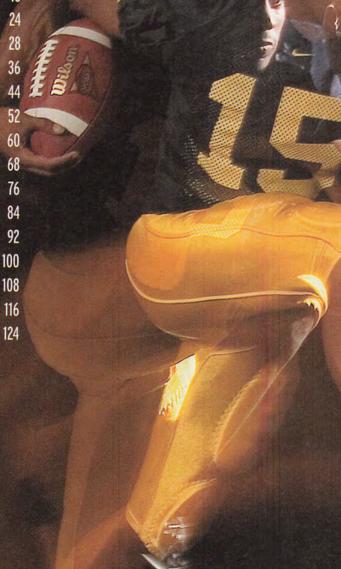


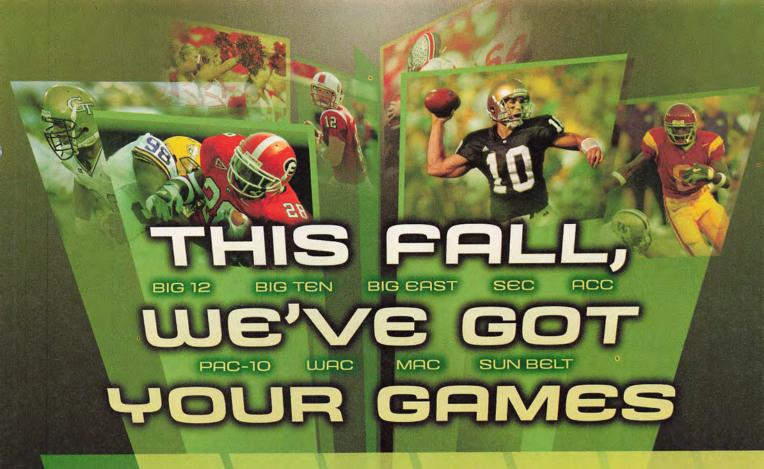
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Steve Breaston

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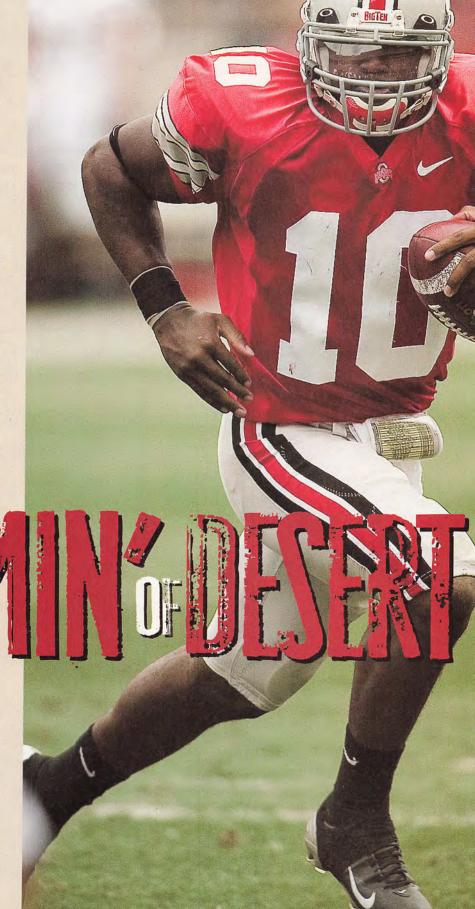
SCOUTING THE BIG TEN

here have all the great Big Ten quarterbacks gone?
Oh, there have been some good ones in recent years. Guys such as Purdue's Drew Brees, Illinois' Kurt Kittner, Michigan State's Jeff Smoker and Iowa's Brad Banks. Even so, a Big Ten quarterback hasn't been picked in the first round of the NFL draft since Penn State's Kerry Collins in 1995.

This year's crop of quarterbacks—nine starters return—doesn't feature any surefire first-round draft choices, either. Michigan's Chad Henne appears to have the best chance for pro success, though he has work to do.

But a team doesn't need an elite quarterback to win a national title. Look at LSU in 2003 (Matt Mauck) and Oklahoma in 2000 (Josh Heupel). Ohio State fans remember that Craig Krenzel led the Buckeyes to the Promised Land in 2002.

Ohio State's current quarterback, Troy Smith, is way better than Krenzel. In fact, he might be good enough to win a national championship. It could have happened last year had Smith not been suspended for the first game of the season for accepting illegal benefits and had he started the second game (vs. Texas). Once Smith took



over for Justin Zwick, the Buckeyes found their groove and were playing as well as any team in the nation by the end of the season.

"I just think getting to one quarterback helped them," says Northwestern coach Randy Walker. "But, more importantly, getting to the right quarterback helped them. That made all the difference."

The close call with greatness last year left Ohio State wanting more. No doubt, this is the best team in the Big Ten. Maybe even a national championship-caliber team.



OHIO STATE won't need an elite QB to get to Phoenix in January, but having TROY SMITH sure helps

BY TOM DIENHART

HEISMAN CANDIDATES

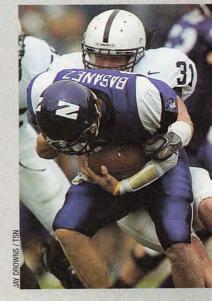
- 1. Troy Smith, QB, Ohio State. Was there a better quarterback in the Big Ten last season? Of course not. The senior is a dangerous runner and good enough passer whose skills will be augmented by more spread schemes.
- 2. Drew Tate, QB, Iowa. The diminutive slinger tried to do too much last season. Let's call it a learning experience. Tate won't feel that pressure this fall, but he'll be working with a rebuilt unit of receivers.
- 3. Chad Henne, QB, Michigan. He took a step back last year, but if being surrounded by talent means anything, Henne is set. He'll throw to a promising group of receivers, and Michigan is loaded at running back. The biggest key? Getting protection from a line that was razed by injuries in 2005.
- 4. Ted Ginn, WR/KR, Ohio State. Admit it: You drop everything you're doing when Ginn touches the ball. Smith could cannibalize Ginn's candidacy, but Ginn has lots going for him: name recognition and those wonderfully fast feet.
- 5. Paul Posluszny, LB, Penn State. If not for a knee injury suffered in the Orange Bowl, Posluszny would be cashing an NFL check this season. He might as well add to a trophy case that already includes the Bednarik and Butkus awards.

PLAYERS WHO CHANGE GAME PLANS

- 1. Ted Ginn, WR/KR, Ohio State. He's college football's answer to microwave popcorn: The guy explodes in mere seconds. Ginn might not be the fastest straight-line player in the sport, but none is better at maintaining top speed when cutting or stopping and starting.
- 2. Derrick Williams, WR/KR, Penn State. The former consensus prep All-American showed what the fuss was about before a broken arm ended his season. With added bulk, a better passing quarterback and experience, the fastest straight-line player in the Big Ten is ready to make defensive coordinators sweat.
- 3. Mario Manningham, WR, Michigan. There were Desmond Howard, Amani Toomer, Tai Streets, David Terrell, Marquise Walker and Braylon Edwards. Now, there's Manningham. His field-stretching skills will loosen defenses, which should make Michigan's running game potent.
- **4. Dorien Bryant, WR, Purdue.** The Boilermakers rarely have a player like this. The goal: Get Bryant the ball in space and watch the diminutive dragster burn rubber. He's as slippery as a wet bar of soap.

PLAYERS COMING BACK FROM INJURIES

- 1. Paul Posluszny, LB, Penn State. What does a defending Butkus Award winner who dallied with turning pro do to motivate himself? Prove he's better than ever after suffering a knee injury in the Orange Bowl.
- 2. Joe Thomas, OT, Wisconsin. He hurt his right knee in the Capital One Bowl—playing defense! Don't ask. Just pray that Thomas regains the form that has him primed to be one of the Badgers' best blockers in recent history.
- 3. Derrick Williams, WR/KR, Penn State. He missed the team's last fives games after breaking an arm at Michigan. When Williams went out, he was leading the team with 22 catches for 289 yards. He'll blow up this year as a triple threat: runner, receiver and return man.
- **4. Jake Long, OT, Michigan.** Talk about jinxed. First, he hurt his left leg in preseason practice and needed surgery. He returned for the eighth game of the season, only to hurt his right foot two games later. Long battled back again and played in the Alamo Bowl.



PLAYERS WHO MUST STEP UP

- 1. Amir Pinnix, RB, Minnesota. He isn't as physical or as fast as Laurence Maroney, but Pinnix is a slasher with a second gear who might be capable of keeping this ground-pounding machine grinding.
- 2. Marcus Freeman, LB, Ohio State. Where to begin with Bobby Carpenter, A.J. Hawk and Anthony Schlegel gone? How about with Freeman? He could become a sideline-to-sideline playmaker and general pain in the rear to offenses.
- 3. Mike Humpal, LB, Iowa. All he has to do is to step into the shoes of Hawkeyes hero Chad Greenway. Humpal has showed glimpses of athletic ability and is tough, but it will be difficult to replace the instincts and passion Greenway brought to the field.

COACHES' AWARDS

Best game-planner: Glen Mason, Minnesota. He'll go in the pantheon of great Golden Gophers coaches. OK, so it's not a big pantheon. Still, Mason has taken the Gophers to six bowls in the past seven years. Bravo! But (and there's always a but) will Mason ever get Minnesota to a New Year's Day bowl?

Best game manager: Joe Tiller, Purdue. Suddenly, spoiled Boilermakers fans groused after Tiller failed to deliver a bowl for the first time in nine seasons. Is ol' Joe losing it? If anything, Tiller is a problem-solver who had Purdue humming with three wins in a row to end last season.

Worst game manager: Ron Zook, Illinois. If Zook is tired of his reputation as a silver-tongued recruiter who can't coach, he needs to win—now. Year 1 was a disaster. Year 2 has to feature more than another dose of hope.

Best under pressure: Jim Tressel, Ohio State. The guy has done everything in just five years: Big Ten title, national title. Plus, he usually whips Michigan. A scary question: How does Tressel keep feeding the beast?

Best in-game adjustments: Kirk Ferentz, lowa. Sure, it was rough in the beginning, with Ferentz going 4-19 his first two seasons. But since then, the Hawkeyes have gone 45-17 with

two Big Ten crowns. And Ferentz isn't going anywhere, which means lowa isn't going anywhere but up.

Best halftime adjustments: Kirk Ferentz, Iowa. The guy is pure savvy, thanks largely to his NFL background. Ferentz assesses a situation quickly and is able to communicate what he wants done.



Assistants make him look good: Joe Paterno, Penn State. Last year was one big sloppy kiss for college football's Methuselah. Hope he's ready for more. The Nits are coming off their first Big Ten crown since 1994 and are recruiting. It all makes you wonder: How did Penn State go to just one bowl from 2000-04?

Does a lot with a little: Randy Walker, Northwestern. How many Big Ten coaches would

want to change jobs with Walker? Uh, none. Doesn't matter. Walker takes the worst talent in the Big Ten and usually has the Wildcats in the middle of the pack. How does that make coaches at Michigan State, Minnesota, Purdue, Illinois and Indiana feel? Hopefully awful.

Time is running out: John L. Smith, Michigan State. Flash back to last year's Ohio State game, when running off the field at halftime, Smith said, "The kids are playing their tails off, and the coaches are screwing it up." Yeah, that about says it all. Is it any wonder Smith has the shortest leash of any Big Ten coach?

YOU CAN SEE THESE UPSETS COMING

Southern Illinois at Indiana, September 16. Playing a Division I-AA team usually is a laughing matter. Not in this circumstance. Southern Illinois has gone 29-8 the past three years, qualifying for the I-AA playoffs each season.

Penn State at Minnesota, October 7. The Gophers won four in a row against the Nittany Lions from 1999-2004. Really, it's true. But Penn State supposedly is over that. Don't be so sure, especially against a team with a senior quarterback.

Michigan State at Michigan, October 7. Not only is this sandwiched between two road games for Michigan, but this is a rivalry game. And the Spartans yearn to beat the Wolverines after losing the past two meetings in overtime.

ALL-CONFERENCE

FIRST TEAM

Offen	se .			
Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
WR	Ted Ginn, Ohio State	6-0	175	Jr.
WR	Dorien Bryant, Purdue	5-10	175	Jr.
TE	Tyler Ecker, Michigan	6-6	247	Sr.
T	Levi Brown, Penn State	6-5	328	Sr.
T	Joe Thomas, Wisconsin	6-8	306	Sr.
G	Jordan Grimes, Purdue	6-3	334	Jr.
G	Mike Jones, Iowa	6-5	302	Sr.
C	Trevor Rees, Northwestern	6-2	285	Jr.
QB	Troy Smith, Ohio State	6-1	215	Sr.
RB	Albert Young, Iowa	5-10	209	Jr.
RB	Mike Hart, Michigan	5-9	198	Jr.
Defen	se			
E	Kenny Iwebema, Iowa	6-4	270	Jr.
E	LaMarr Woodley, Michigan	6-2	268	Sr.
T	Quinn Pitcock, Ohio State	6-3	295	Sr.
T	Jay Alford, Penn State	6-3	288	Sr.
LB	Paul Posluszny, Penn State	6-1	238	Sr.
LB	Mark Zalewski, Wisconsin	6-2	236	Sr.
LB	Prescott Burgess, Michigan	6-3	246	Sr.
СВ	Leon Hall, Michigan	5-11	193	Sr.
СВ	Justin King, Penn State	5-11	179	So.
S	Joe Stellmacher, Wisconsin	6-1	222	Sr.
S	Marcus Paschal, Iowa	6-0	207	Sr.
Specia	llists			
K	Kyle Schlicher, Iowa	5-9	184	Sr.
P	Ken DeBauche, Wisconsin	6-2	221	Jr.
KR	Ted Ginn, Ohio State	6-0	175	Jr.
Player	s of the year			
Offen	se: Troy Smith, QB, Ohio State			

Offense: Troy Smith, QB, Ohio State
Defense: Paul Posluszny, LB, Penn State

SECOND TEAM

Offen	se			
WR	Derrick Williams, Penn State	6-0	201	So
WR	Mario Manningham, Michigan	6-0	187	So.
TE	Matt Spaeth, Minnesota	6-6	270	Sr.
T	Kirk Barton, Ohio State	6-7	325	Jr.
T	Marshal Yanda, Iowa	6-4	305	Sr.
G	Tony Brinkhaus, Minnesota	6-4	300	Jr.
G	Adam Kraus, Michigan	6-6	295	Jr.
C	Doug Datish, Ohio State	6-5	295	Sr.
QB	Drew Tate, Iowa	6-0	192	Sr.
RB	Tyrell Sutton, Northwestern	5-9	190	So.
RB	Antonio Pittman, Ohio State	5-11	195	Jr.
Defen	se			
E	Steve Davis, Minnesota	6-2	230	So.
E	Matthew Shaughnessy, Wisconsin	6-6	227	So.
T	Chris Norwell, Illinois	6-6	290	Jr.
T	Nick Hayden, Wisconsin	6-5	310	Jr.
LB	Edmond Miles, Iowa	6-1	228	Sr.
LB	Dan Connor, Penn State	6-3	225	Jr.
LB	Tim Shaw, Penn State	6-1	237	Sr.
CB	Malcolm Jenkins, Ohio State	6-1	180	So.
CB	Marquice Cole, Northwestern	5-10	185	Sr.
S	Kevin Mitchell, Illinois	6-0	200	Jr.
S	Roderick Rogers, Wisconsin	6-2	186	Sr.
Specia	alists			
K	Garrett Rivas, Michigan	5-9	217	Sr.
Р	Brandon Fieds, Michigan State	6-6	232	Sr.
KR	Steve Breaston, Michigan	6-1	182	Sr.
Newco	omers of the year			

Offense: Lance Kendricks, WR, Wisconsin Defense: Larry Grant, LB, Ohio State



RANKING THE TOP NONCONFERENCE GAMES



1. Ohio State at Texas, September 9. This isn't Caddyshack II. The Longhorns' victory in Columbus in 2005 helped spark them to the national title. The sequel finds the Buckeyes in a similar circumstance.

2. Michigan at Notre Dame, September 16. The loser can wad up and throw out its national title dreams. Still, the Irish seem better equipped to rebound from a loss than the Wolverines, whose program might be at a crossroads. More bad news for Michigan: The Irish have won the past

two meetings, and Michigan hasn't won in South Bend since 1994.

3. Penn State at Notre Dame, September 9. We've waited too long for this. Fourteen years,

in fact. It was 1992 when these schools last met, with Notre Dame claiming a 17-16 victory in

THE WORST NONCONFERENCE GAMES

Eastern Illinois at Illinois, September 2 Idaho at Michigan State, September 2 Indiana State at Purdue, September 2 Vanderbilt at Michigan, September 2 Iowa at Syracuse, September 9 Western Illinois at Wisconsin, September 9 Temple at Minnesota, September 16 Youngstown State at Penn State, September 16 North Dakota State at Minnesota, October 21 Ball State at Michigan, November 4

South Bend. But the wait might have been worth it, considering these titans appear to be awakening from their slumbers. It's just too bad this game isn't taking place in the November cold.

4. Notre Dame at Michigan State, September 23. The Spartans have gone 7-2 against the Irish over the past nine seasons. But there's hope for Notre Dame:

> The Irish have won the past two meetings in East Lansing. Don't try to figure it out. Just enjoy it.

5. Iowa State at Iowa, September 16. It's getting harder to remember, but there was a time when the Hawkeyes dominated this series, winning 15 in a row from 1983-97. But look at

the Cyclones now: They've won six of the past eight meetings.

FIVE OTHER GEMS

Northwestern at Miami (Ohio), August 31 Wisconsin vs. Bowling Green (at Cleveland), September 2

Minnesota at California, September 9 Michigan State at Pitt, September 16 Purdue at Notre Dame, September 30

RANKING THE TOP CONFERENCE GAMES

HIVE OTHER GEMS

Purdue at Iowa, October 7

Michigan State at Michigan, October 7

Penn State at Wisconsin, November 4

Penn State at Purdue, October 28

Wisconsin at Iowa, November 11

1. Michigan at Ohio State, November 18. Want proof things run in cycles? Check out this rivalry. John Cooper went 2-10-1 against Michigan. Enter Jim Tressel. Suddenly, sweater vests are cool, and the Buckeyes are bashing the

Wolverines. Tressel is 4-1 against Michigan, with a 2-0 mark in Columbus.

2. Ohio State at Iowa, September 30. Buckeyes fans won't soon forget Ohio State's last trip to Iowa City, which resulted in a 33-7 pasting at the hands of the Hawkeyes.

Expect a closer game this time, with the victor in the driver's seat to win the Big Ten.

3. Michigan at Penn State, October 14. Wanna

know a secret? The Wolverines have won seven in a row against the Nittany Lions, dating to a loss in State College in 1997. Yeah, it has to drive Penn State fans crazy, especially last year's last-second loss that cost the Nits a shot at the

national title.

4. Iowa at Michigan,
October 21. This rivalry has
recaptured the fire Bo
Schembechler and Hayden
Fry brought to it in the
1980s. Kirk Ferentz is 2-3
against Big Blue, and under
his watch, Iowa has matched
Michigan's Big Ten title total

(two) over the past five seasons.

5. Penn State at Ohio State, September 23. Nothing like a matchup of last year's co-Big Ten champs. Oh sure, the Nittany Lions won last year's meeting, but many felt the Buckeyes were the Big Ten's best team by November. Whichever team's rebuilt defense develops the quickest will win the game.

WHO THEY DON'T PLAY

Illinois: Michigan, Minnesota Indiana: Northwestern, Penn State Iowa: Michigan State, Penn State Michigan: Illinois, Purdue Michigan State: Iowa, Wisconsin Minnesota: Illinois, Northwestern Northwestern: Indiana, Minnesota Ohio State: Purdue, Wisconsin Penn State: Indiana, Iowa

Purdue: Michigan, Ohio State Wisconsin: Michigan State, Ohio State

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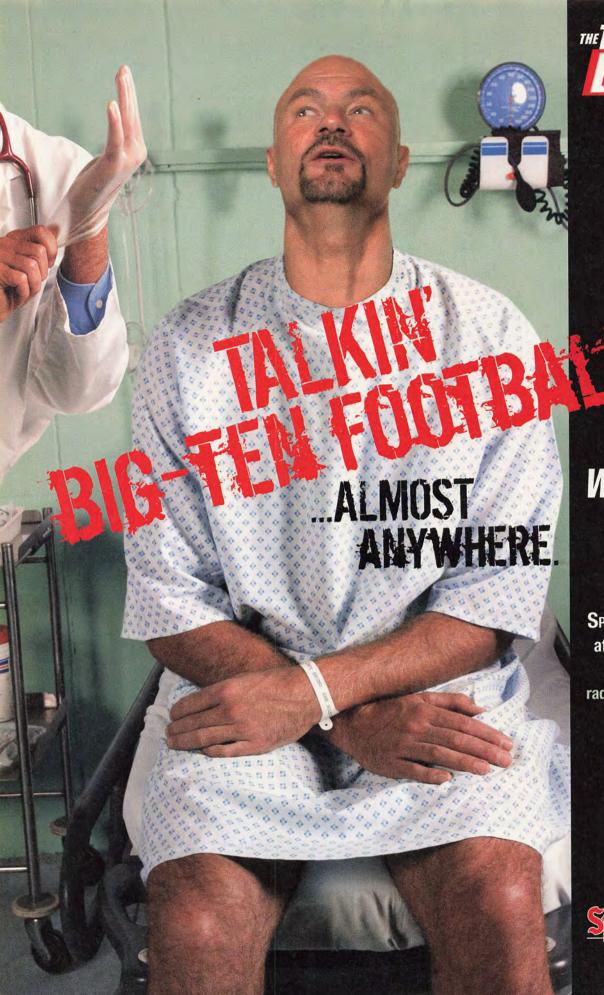
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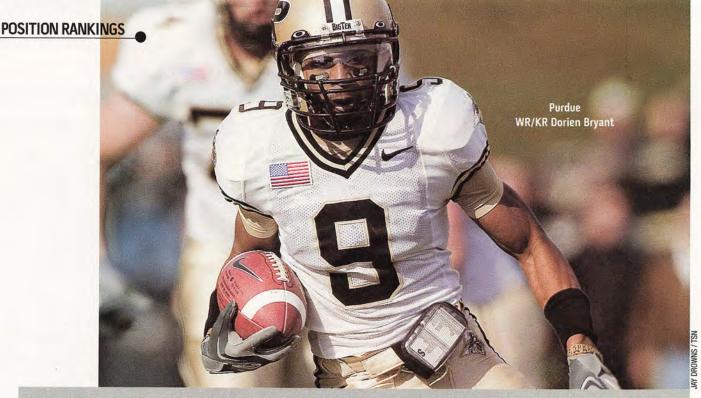
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QUARTERBACKS

- 1. Troy Smith, Ohio State. His blend of athleticism is what makes the Buckeyes deadly. Think read option. And Smith is a better thrower than you think.
- 2. Drew Tate, Iowa
- 3. Drew Stanton, Michigan State
- 4. Chad Henne, Michigan
- 5. John Stocco, Wisconsin
- 6. Bryan Cupito, Minnesota
- 7. Curtis Painter, Purdue
- 8. Anthony Morelli, Penn State

RECEIVERS

- Ted Ginn, Ohio State. A lithe lightning bolt who plays the ultimate game of catch-me-if-you-can. Ginn's ability to cut at full speed often leaves defenders with a face full of turf.
- 2. Dorien Bryant, Purdue
- 3. Derrick Williams, Penn State
- 4. Mario Manningham, Michigan
- 5. Shaun Herbert, Northwestern
- 6. Jerramy Scott, Michigan State
- 7. Deon Butler, Penn State
- 8. Steve Breaston, Michigan
- 9. James Hardy, Indiana
- 10. Anthony Gonzalez, Ohio State
- 11. Ernie Wheelwright, Minnesota
- 12. Matt Trannon, Michigan State

RUNNING BACKS

- 1. Albert Young, Iowa. Free of the injuries that wrecked his first two seasons on campus, Young uncorked a 1,000-yard season and ran for more than 100 yards in each of his last seven regular-season games.
- 2. Mike Hart, Michigan
- 3. Tyrell Sutton, Northwestern
- 4. Antonio Pittman, Ohio State
- 5. Tony Hunt, Penn State
- 6. Pierre Thomas, Illinois
- 7. Kevin Grady, Michigan
- 8. Javon Ringer, Michigan State

TIGHT ENDS

- Tyler Ecker, Michigan. This program has an underrated ability to develop tight ends. Ecker is the next gem. He's a classic combination of blocker/pass catcher who is developing into a security blanket for QB Chad Henne.
- 2. Matt Spaeth, Minnesota
- 3. Scott Chandler, Iowa
- 4. Dustin Keller, Purdue
- 5. Kellen Davis, Michigan State
- 6. Rory Nicol, Ohio State

GUARDS

- Mike Jones, Iowa. A classic mauler who started as a true freshman. Now a senior, Jones is strong at the point of attack and has continued to refine his technique.
- 2. Jordan Grimes, Purdue
- 3. Adam Kraus, Michigan
- 4. Tony Brinkhaus, Minnesota
- 5. Ryan Keenan, Northwestern
- 6. T.J. Downing, Ohio State

FULLBACKS

- 1. BranDon Snow, Penn State. A tough, physical blocker who knows his role, Snow is adept at squaring his shoulders and delivering a blow. And he rarely loses his feet, which allows him to pick up additional blocks downfield.
- 2. Tom Busch, Iowa
- 3. Chris Pressley, Wisconsin
- 4. Justin Valentine, Minnesota
- 5. Obi Oluigbo, Michigan
- 6. Stan White, Ohio State

TACKLES

- Joe Thomas, Wisconsin. A classic left tackle whose long reach makes it difficult for foes to maneuver around him. Thomas is a powerful blocker with the feet to get to the second level.
- 2. Levi Brown, Penn State
- 3. Kirk Barton, Ohio State
- 4. Marshal Yanda, Iowa
- 5. Mike Otto, Purdue
- 6. Jake Long, Michigan

CENTERS

- Trevor Rees, Northwestern. After sitting out last year to work on academics, Rees is back with a vengeance. Rees isn't a classic physical specimen, but he's an intense competitor who refuses to be outworked.
- 2. Doug Datish, Ohio State
- 3. Mark Bihl, Michigan
- 4. A.Q. Shipley, Penn State
- 5. Chris Mangiero, Indiana
- 6. Tyson Swaggert, Minnesota

ENDS

- 1. Kenny Iwebema, Iowa. It's this simple: Iwebema has a lot of want-to. That go-go style is complemented by underrated athletic ability, which is why he'll be one of the Big Ten's most feared pass rushers this fall.
- 2. LaMarr Woodley, Michigan
- 3. Matthew Shaughnessy, Wisconsin
- 4. Steve Davis, Minnesota
- 5. Jay Richardson, Ohio State
- 6. Anthony Spencer, Purdue
- 7. Jamal Cooper, Wisconsin
- 8. Rondell Biggs, Michigan

TACKLES

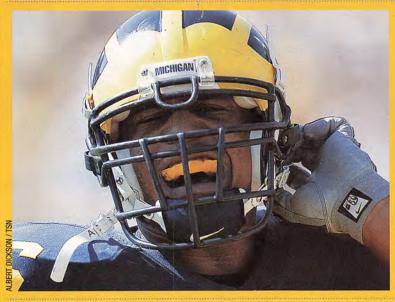
- 1. Quinn Pitcock, Ohio State. He's a disruptive force who excels at breaking the double-team and disrupting the timing of an offense. A secret to his success: super-human strength that allows him to shed blocks and still make the play.
- 2. Jay Alford, Penn State
- 3. Nick Hayden, Wisconsin
- 4. Chris Norwell, Illinois
- 5. Alan Branch, Michigan
- 6. Ed Johnson, Penn State
- 7. Clifton Ryan, Michigan State
- 8. Alex Magee, Purdue

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

- 1. Paul Posluszny, Penn State. The epitome of a western Pennsylvania kid: rough, tough and ready. And Posluszny also is fast, which is why he rarely comes off the field, regardless of the down and distance.
- 2. Prescott Burgess, Michigan
- 3. Edmond Miles, Iowa
- 4. Dan Connor, Penn State
- 5. Marcus Freeman, Ohio State
- 6. Mario Reese, Minnesota
- 7. Nick Roach, Northwestern
- 8. Cliff Avril, Purdue

INSIDE LINEBACKERS

- 1. Mark Zalewski, Wisconsin. Not only is Zalewski strong enough to take on blockers and stuff the run, he has uncommon quickness for an inside linebacker. He's also a smart player.
- 2. Tim Shaw, Penn State
- 3. Dave Harris, Michigan
- 4. Kaleb Thornhill, Michigan State
- 5. Chris Graham, Michigan
- 6. John Kerr, Ohio State



CORNERBACKS

- 1. Leon Hall, Michigan. Hall's blend of size and speed makes him equally adept at covering the run and stopping the pass. He just needs to make more big plays.
- 2. Justin King, Penn State
- 3. Malcolm Jenkins, Ohio State
- 4. Marquice Cole, Northwestern
- 5. Morgan Trent, Michigan
- 6. Jack Ikegwuonu, Wisconsin
- 7. Tracy Porter, Indiana
- 8. Charles Godfrey, Iowa

STRONG SAFETIES

- 1. Joe Stellmacher, Wisconsin. He's an underrated hitter who excels in run support. And Stellmacher is a leader whose heart and savvy are infectious for a defense that figures to be one of the best in the Big Ten.
- 2. Kevin Mitchell, Illinois
- 3. Jamario O'Neal, Ohio State
- 4. Bryan Heinz, Northwestern
- 5. Willis Barringer, Michigan
- 6. Miguel Merrick, Iowa

Michigan DE LaMarr Woodley

FREE SAFETIES

- 1. Marcus Paschal, lowa. It's all about positioning, and Paschal seemingly always is in the right spot. He sees the field and understands angles. Paschal also has the speed to help in coverage.
- 2. Roderick Rogers, Wisconsin
- 3. Brandent Englemon, Michigan
- 4. Donnie Johnson, Penn State
- 5. Nick Patterson, Ohio State
- 6. Will Meyers, Indiana

PECIALISTS

KICKERS

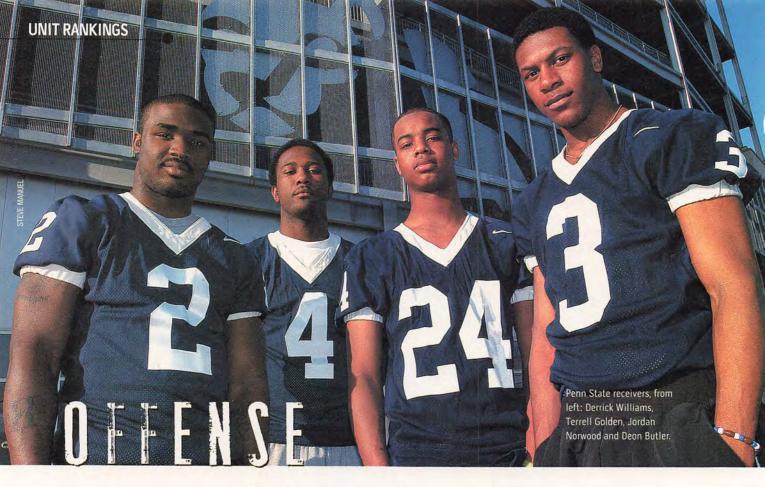
- 1. Kyle Schlicher, Iowa. The little guy might leave Iowa City as the school's best kicker. He paced the Big Ten by hitting 81.0 percent of his field-goal attempts (17-of-21) with a long of 52 yards last season.
- 2. Garrett Rivas, Michigan
- 3. Kevin Kelly, Penn State
- 4. Taylor Mehlhaff, Wisconsin
- 5. Jason Reda, Illinois

PUNTERS

- 1. Ken DeBauche, Wisconsin. His effort at North Carolina shows what he's capable of: seven punts for a 46.7-yard average, with four punts landing inside the 20. Wisconsin's Kevin Stemke won the Ray Guy Award in 2000—and DeBauche might be better.
- 2. Brandon Fields, Michigan State
- 3. Jeremy Kapinos, Penn State
- 4. A.J. Trapasso, Ohio State
- 5. Andy Fenstermaker, Iowa

RETURN MEN

- 1. Ted Ginn, Ohio State. Three words: Oh my God. That's the thought that rushes through the heads of opposing special teams coordinators as they prepare for Ginn. The best way to stop Ginn? Punt away from him.
- 2. Steve Breaston, Michigan
- 3. Justin King, Penn State
- 4. Dorien Bryant, Purdue
- 5. Pierre Thomas, Illinois



BACKFIELDS

1. Ohio State

QB Troy Smith, who's 13-2 as a starter, isn't all dash; the guy led the Big Ten in passing efficiency last season.
RB Antonio Pittman lacks size, but he's a tough inside runner. Fans are jacked about incoming freshman Chris Wells. He's the big back the Buckeyes have been missing.

2. Iowa

Stud: QB Drew Tate

Rising star: RB Shonn Greene

3. Michigan Stud: QB Chad Henne

Rising star: RB Kevin Grady

4. Michigan State

Stud: QB Drew Stanton
Rising star: RB Javon Ringer

5. Wisconsin

Stud: QB John Stocco Rising star: RB P.J. Hill

6. Penn State

Stud: RB Tony Hunt Rising star: QB Anthony Morelli

7. Minnesota

Stud: QB Bryan Cupito Rising star: RB Amir Pinnix

8. Northwestern

Stud: RB Tyrell Sutton Rising star: QB C.J. Bacher

9. Purdue

Stud: QB Curtis Painter Rising star: RB Kory Sheets

10. Illinois

Stud: RB Pierre Thomas Rising star: RB Rashard Mendenhall

11. Indiana

Stud: QB Blake Powers Rising star: RB Demetrius McCray

RECEIVERS

1. Penn State

The Nittany Lions' fabulous freshmen are now sophomore sensations. Deon Butler, Jordan Norwood and Derrick Williams could blossom playing with a quarterback who's better suited to pass. Keep an eye on some other potential stars: Kevin Cousins and Chris Bell.

2. Michigan

Stud: WR Steve Breaston Rising star: WR Mario Manningham

3. Ohio State

Stud: WR Ted Ginn

Rising star: WR Brian Hartline

4. Michigan State

Stud: WR Matt Trannon Rising star: WR Devin Thomas

5. Purdue

Stud: WR Dorien Bryant Rising star: TE Dustin Keller

6. Minnesota

Stud: TE Matt Spaeth
Rising star: WR Mike Chambers

7. Northwestern

Stud: WR Shaun Herbert Rising star: WR Ross Lane

8. Iowa

Stud: WR Calvin Davis Rising star: TE Tony Moeaki

9. Wisconsin

Stud: WR Marcus Randle El Rising star: WR Lance Kendricks

10. Indiana

Stud: WR James Hardy Rising star: WR Nick Polk

11. Illinois

Stud: WR Derrick McPhearson Rising star: WR Marques Wilkins

LINES

1. Iowa

Gotta love T Marshal Yanda, whose pure strength allows him to overpower foes. G Mike Jones is emerging as one of the Big Ten's best. T Dace Richardson is a good athlete and future star.

2. Ohio State

Stud: T Kirk Barton Rising star: T Alex Boone

3. Purdue

Stud: G Jordan Grimes Rising star: T Sean Sester

4. Michigan

Stud: T Jake Long

Rising star: T Stephen Schilling 5. Northwestern

Stud: C Trevor Rees Rising star: T Dylan Thiry

6. Wisconsin

Stud: T Joe Thomas Rising star: G Kraig Urbik

7. Penn State

Stud: T Levi Brown Rising star: C A.Q. Shipley

8. Minnesota

Stud: G Tony Brinkhaus Rising star: T Steve Shidell

9. Michigan State

Stud: G Kyle Cook

Rising star: T Jesse Miller

10. Illinois

Stud: T Akim Millington
Rising star: T Charles Myles

11. Indiana

Stud: T Justin Frye

Rising star: T Chauncey Incarnato

SATURDAY SHRINES



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LINES

1. Wisconsin

Eight players who started at least one game last year are back. The headliners: T Nick Hayden and E Matthew Shaughnessy. Hayden is a roughneck, and Shaughnessy's nonstop motor makes him a pass-rushing force.

2. Iowa

Stud: E Kenny Iwebema Rising star: T Mitch King

3. Ohio State Stud: T Quinn Pitcock

Rising star: E Lawrence Wilson

4. Michigan

Stud: E LaMarr Woodley Rising star: T Alan Branch

5. Purdue

Stud: E Anthony Spencer Rising star: T Alex Magee

6. Penn State

Stud: T Jay Alford Rising star: E Josh Gaines

7. Michigan State

Stud: T Clifton Ryan Rising star: E Brandon Long

8. Minnesota

Stud: E Steve Davis Rising star: E Willie VanDeSteeg

9. Illinois

Stud: T Chris Norwell Rising star: E Derek Walker

10. Northwestern

Stud: E Kevin Mims Rising star: E Corey Wootton

11. Indiana

Stud: E Kenny Kendal Rising star: E Jammie Kirlew

LINEBACKERS

1. Penn State

Paul Posluszny is back after suffering a knee injury in the Orange Bowl. He's one of the nation's top linebackers, and Dan Connor isn't far behind. The there's Tim Shaw, whose speed belies his blue-collar label. Tyrell Sales' athletic ability makes him a side-line-to-sideline terror. The staff loves the potential of Sean Lee.

2. Michigan

Stud: Prescott Burgess Rising star: Brandon Graham

3. Ohio State

Stud: Marcus Freeman Rising star: Larry Grant

4. Wisconsin

Stud: Mark Zalewski Rising star: DeAndre Levy

5. Purdue

Stud: Cliff Avril Rising star: Dan Bick

6. Iowa

Stud: Edmond Miles Rising star: Bryon Gattas

7. Michigan State

Stud: David Herron Rising star: Adam Decker

8. Northwestern

Stud: Nick Roach
Rising star: Prince Kwateng

9. Minnesota

Stud: Mario Reese Rising star: Alex Daniels 10. Illinois

Stud: Brit Miller

Rising star: Antonio Steele

11. Indiana

Stud: Jake Powers Rising star: Vernon Smith

SECONDARIES

1. Wisconsin

The leaders are FS Roderick Rogers, SS Joe Stellmacher and CB Jack Ikegwuonu. Rogers is a rangy guy. Stellmacher is a big hitter who excels in run support. Ikegwuonu brings size and an ability to play the ball in the air.

2. Ohio State

Stud: CB Malcolm Jenkins Rising star: SS Jamario O'Neal

3. Michigan

Stud: CB Leon Hall

Rising star: CB Morgan Trent

4. Penn State

Stud: CB Justin King Rising star: CB Tony Davis

5. Iowa

Stud: FS Marcus Paschal Rising star: CB Adam Shada

6. Minnesota

Stud: SS Dominic Jones

Rising star: CB Jamal Harris

7. Michigan State

Stud: CB Demond Williams Rising star: SS Nehemiah Warrick

8. Illinois

Stud: SS Kevin Mitchell Rising star: CB Dere Hicks

9. Purdue

Stud: SS Torri Williams Rising star: CB Brandon King

10. Northwestern

Stud: CB Marquice Cole Rising star: FS Brendan Smith

11. Indiana

Stud: FS Will Meyers Rising star: FS Austin Thomas

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I Free!

All Year

Ever wondered what it's

like to run over a

catcher ... miss free

throws with a ticket to

the Big Dance on the

steel oven for three

hours? Of course you

have; so have we. So

we asked the people who know to tell you about those

experiences -- and

many more -- in our

third annual "How's that feel?" issue. In other

words, we'll bring you to

line ... be trapped in a

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MAKES YOU

HERE IS WHAT WE THINK YOU NEED TO KNOW TODAY!



Anyone notice the Yankees' Mariano Rivera is enjoying his best season as a closer? Rivera allowed two earned runs in his first two

appearances, then only two in his next 36. His 0.89 ERA would represent a career best, and his 10.18 strikeouts per nine innings would be his highest since 1996, when he was John Wetteland's setup man. ... Pistons owner Bill Davidson is the biggest hypocrite this side of William Bennett. He didn't mind Larry Brown talking to the Pistons when Brown was under contract with the 76ers. What's the difference in that and Brown listening the Cavs discuss a front-office job? Not a damn thing, except the ball is on a different rack. I hope the Pistons never win another game. ... Sorry if I can't get all agitated about members of the Northwestern University's national championship women's lacrosse team

EDITOR'S SCOOP

friend



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their senses.

IN THE MAG

HE SAID

Analysis

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Alive and kicking

Big things are happening at Penn State, which made another statement by landing the Big Ten's No. 1 recruiting class

BY JEREMY CRABTREE, RIVALS.COM

lost it somewhere around 2000, well, he's found it again. The 2006 recruiting haul is further proof. Penn State, coming off its first conference championship since 1994, signed the No. 1 class in the Big Ten and the

oe Paterno has still got it. For those who think he

sixth-best in the nation. This comes after a solid effort last year, when JoePa turned heads by landing the Big Ten's No. 4 class, which included receiver Derrick Williams, the nation's top prospect.

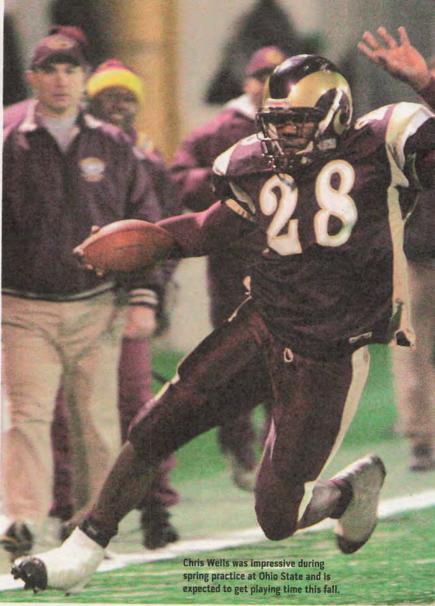
Give Paterno plenty of credit, but the biggest reason Penn State was king of the Big Ten recruiting mountain in February was because of his staff. Defensive line coach Larry Johnson was named Rivals.com's National Recruiter of

Johnson and Co. cleaned up in Maryland, where Penn State signed seven of the state's top 11 players. The haul was highlighted by A.J. Wallace (Pomfret, Md./McDonough), the top cornerback prospect in the nation. The Lions also excelled on their turf. By persuading Pat Devlin (Exton, Pa./Dowington East) to renege on a commitment to Miami, Penn Sate secured its future at quarterback. And everyone is excited about defensive tackle Jared Odrick (Lebanon, Pa./Lebanon), who could be a star from Day 1.

This class could provide the foundation for a national championship run in the next few years.

1. Penn State Strengths: There's firepower across the board. CB A.J. Wallace is just what a rebuilding secondary needs. The Nittany Lions added three studs at running back, including Keystone State product Brent Carter. The staff wanted defensive tackles and grabbed five of them.

Weaknesses: Penn State lost early recruiting battles in Pennsylvania against Pitt, which landed WRs Dorin Dickerson and Aaron Smith, OL Jeff Otah, DT John Malecki, TE Nate Byham and DB Aaron Berry. The Nittany Lions would have liked to have added one more receiver. 2007 needs: DB, WR, LB



2. Ohio State Strengths: Chris Wells is big and powerful and could be an immediate every-down back. He can run between the tackles and also get outside with his speed. Thaddeus Gibson, Larry Grant, Ross Homan and Mark Johnson arrive just in time for a linebackers unit that suffered heavy losses. Grant initially signed with Florida but was unable to enroll because of a transfer requirement that was unfulfilled.

Weaknesses: This class is short a few offensive linemen because the emphasis was on other positions. Notre Dame stole three quality players from Ohio. But the Buckeyes still got most of the big-time in-state players they wanted.

2007 needs: OL, DT, WR

3. Michigan Strengths: LB Brandon Graham was the top in-state player. Michigan had to get him—and did. S Jonas Mouton could help a leaky secondary right away. Other than offensive line, no other position was a bigger need than safety. The linchpin is OL Stephen Schilling, a native of the Seattle area who could play this fall. Weaknesses: The Wolverines' 2006 haul would have been better with one more high-quality offensive lineman. Michigan State did damage in-state.



That should set up an interesting battle for the class of 2007, a group some are calling the best in Michigan in years.

2007 needs: WR, DT, OL

4. Illinois Strengths: The future might be now for
Chicago superstar QB Isiah Williams. He has a rocket for an
arm and out-of-this-world confidence. Chris James was another
Illinois product Ron Zook had to sign. James is one of the best receivers in
the nation—and the Illini desperately need receivers. The offensive line,
another major need, was augmented.

Weaknesses: Some of the top players in Illinois slipped away, which bothers Zook. More help was needed along the defensive line, especially at tackle. The Illinois defense has to get tougher against the run. **2007 needs:** DT, RB OL

5. Michigan State Strengths: DE Ervin Baldwin initially committed to Kansas State before switching to the Spartans. He's a sack master and one of the top junior college recruits in the country. WR Devin

Ton	incoming	nlavera	(nanked by nogiti	anl
TOD	incoming	prayers	(ranked by position	on)

Name	Ht./Wt.	QUARTERBACKS Hometown/school	College
I. Isiah Williams	6-2/207	Chicago/Vocational	Illinois
2. Pat Devlin	6-3/200	Exton, Pa./Dowington East	Penn State
3. Jeff Lindsay	6-4/210	Macomb, Mich./L'Anse Creuse North	Purdue
4. Antonio Henton	6-2/210	Fort Valley, Ga./Peach County	Ohio State
5. Richard Stanzi	6-4/200	Mentor, Ohio/Lake Catholic	Iowa
		RUNNING BACKS	
1. Chris Wells	6-1/225	Akron, Ohio/Garfield	Ohio State
2. Carlos Brown	6-0/195	Franklin, Ga./Heard County	Michigan
3. Brent Carter	6-3/205	Pottstown, Pa./Pottsgrove	Penn State
4. Brandon Minor	6-0/215	Richmond, Va./Varina	Michigan
5. Evan Royster	6-0/190	Chantilly, Va./Westfield	Penn State
		RECEIVERS	
1. Devin Thomas	6-2/213	Ann Arbor, Mich./Coffeyville C.C. (Kan.)	Michigan State
2. Ray Small	6-0/175	Cleveland/Glenville	Ohio State
3. Greg Mathews	6-3/180	Orlando/Edgewater	Michigan
4. Chris Bell	6-3/205	Norfolk, Va./Granby	Penn State
5. Chris James	6-0/177	Chicago/Morgan Park .	Illinois
		TIGHT ENDS	
1. Jake Ballard	6-7/255	Springboro, Ohio/Springboro	Ohio State
2. Andrew Quarless	6-4/222	Uniondale, N.Y./Uniondale	Penn State
3. Charlie Gantt	6-4/241	Farmington Hills, Mich./Brother Rice	Michigan State
4. Jeff Cumberland	6-4/230	Columbus/Brookhaven	Illinois
5. A.J. Edds	6-4/224	Greenwood, Ind./Greenwood Community	lowa
	STATE S	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	
1. Stephen Schilling	6-5/285	Bellevue, Wash./Bellevue	Michigan
2. Connor Smith	6-5/295	Cincinnati/Colerain	Ohio State
3. Antonio Logan-El	6-4/307	Forestville, Md./Forestville	Penn State
4. Justin Boren	6-4/305	Pickerington, Ohio/North	Michigan
5. J.B. Walton	6-3/275	Indian Head, Md./Lackey	Penn State
		DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	
1. Robert Rose	6-5/260	Cleveland/Glenville	Ohio State
2. Jared Odrick	6-5/303	Lebanon, Pa./Lebanon	Penn ^o State
3. Ervin Baldwin	6-2/252	Oglesthorpe, Ga./Reedley College (Calif.)	Michigan State
4. Maurice Evans	6-3/245	Middle Village, N.Y./Christ The King	Penn State
5. Adam Patterson	6-3/260	Columbia, S.C./Richland Northeast	Michigan
		LINEBACKERS	
1. Brandon Graham	6-2/240	Detroit/Crockett	Michigan
2. Jeremiha Hunter	6-2/217	York, Pa./Harrisburg Science and Technology	lowa
3. Mark Johnson	6-4/230	Los Angeles/Dorsey	Ohio State
4. Thaddeus Gibson	6-3/220	Euclid, Ohio/Euclid	Ohio State
5. Cobrani Mixon	6-2/206	Cincinnati/Colerain	Michigan
S. 45-5 1-54	WITH HE	DEFENSIVE BACKS	The second
1. A.J. Wallace	6-1/195	Pomfret, Md./McDonough	Penn State
2. Jonas Mouton	6-2/212	Los Angeles/Venice	Michigan
3. Stevie Brown	6-0/195	Columbus, Ind./East	Michigan
4. Kurt Coleman	5-11/185	Clayton, Ohio/Northmont	Ohio State
5. Chris Duvalt	5-10/159	Lakeland, Fla./Lake Gibson	Illinois

Thomas is another junior college transfer with instant-impact potential.

TE Charlie Gantt and LB Eric Gordon also could have an immediate impact.

Weaknesses: Michigan State lost out on some solid prospects in Florida down the stretch. John L. Smith would have liked to have added a few more offensive linemen. Maybe next year. The Spartans also came up short at running back.

2007 needs: RB, OL, WR

6. Iowa Strengths: DE Adrian Clayborn was the No. 2 player in Missouri. He's got a great first step and ready-made Big Ten strength. LB Jeremiha Hunter was a monster get out of Pennsylvania who will bolster a depleted defense. Junior college recruit Bryon Gattas is another linebacker who's ready to hit the ground running. Iowa won a great recruiting victory against Kansas and Michigan State to get Gattas. It was important to sign QBs Arvell Nelson and Richard Stanzi.

Weaknesses: The lack of great talent in-state hurt the depth of this class. Kirk Ferentz's class featured only one defensive lineman.

2007 needs: DE, DT, RB

7. Wisconsin Strengths: WR Lance Kendricks is a budding track star, but is he tough enough? The Milwaukee native decided to stay home, turning down offers from LSU and Arkansas. This class was full of quality offensive linemen, headlined by Jake Bscherer. He and Gabe Carimi, John Moffitt and Bill Nagy could play sooner rather than later. DE Richard Garner was discovered by assistant David Doeren late in the process. After watching Garner play basketball, the Badgers were sold.

Weaknesses: Brent Schaeffer was recruited to be the next quarterback, and the junior college standout and former Tennessee starter gave the Badgers a serious look. But Schaeffer signed with Ole Miss. That caused Wisconsin to scramble and sign a high school quarterback. Bodies weren't landed at running back, always a key position in Madison.

2007 needs: RB, QB DE

- 8. Purdue Strengths: Some of the nine junior college transfers have to offer immediate help to a beleaguered defensive line and secondary. The running backs were well-stocked by two junior college arrivals and high school recruit Deon Williams. Signing character players was emphasized because of the many attitude/off-field problems last year.

 Weaknesses: If the junior college transfers are busts, the program will play catch-up for a few years. Few schools can match Purdue's quarterback legacy, but no blue-chipper was signed for the fourth season in a row. Just five offensive linemen have been added the past two years—and three are projects.

 2007 needs: QB, OL, WR
- 9. Minnesota Strengths: Glen Mason knows a thing or two about star running backs, so people took notice when he targeted junior college transfer Brylee Callender and Ohio native Terrence Sherrer. Many Big Ten teams passed on Sherrer, but Mason's staff loved his explosiveness and ability to turn in big runs in big games. Defensive ends were a huge priority that was filled by signing Robert McField and Sean McWhirter. McField previously was committed to Missouri.

Weaknesses: The Gophers landed a balanced class, but the coaches hoped for one or two more impact receivers. More help along the offensive line would have been nice, too.

2007 needs: OL, WR, DT

10. Northwestern Strengths: WR Carl Fisher is the classic good kid/good prospect. The in-state product was heavily recruited by Kansas, Utah and Wisconsin, but he pledged to the Wildcats in mid-October. LB Quentin Davie has the talent to play quickly. CB Justan Vaughn was a solid get out of Houston.

Weaknesses: Northwestern needed offensive linemen but signed only two. The Wildcats also came up short at running back, defensive end and defensive tackle.

2007 needs: DT, RB, OL

11. Indiana Strengths: Two Illinois prospects were at the top of Indiana's class: LB Matt Mayberry and OL Alex Perry. Both were heavily recruited before picking Indiana. OL Cody Faulkner and Perry will bring much-needed help to the line.

Weaknesses: Indiana continues to miss on many top prospects in its backyard. The top five players in Indiana went somewhere else, and only three of the top 10 signed with IU.

2007 needs: RB, WR, QB

Top 50 Midwest prospects for 2007 (listed alphabetically)

Name	Ht./Wt.	RTERBACKS Hometown/School (College commitment)
Clay Belton	6-6/219	Clayton, Ohio/Northmont
Keith Nichol	6-2/180	Lowell, Mich./Lowell (Michigan State)
Rocco Pentello	6-0/188	Westerville, Ohio/South
Teddy Schell	6-5/205	Barrington, III./Barrington
Justin Siller	6-3/178	Orchard Lake, Mich./St. Mary's
Chris Smith	6-3/220	South Point, Ohio/South Point
		ING BACKS
John Clay	6-2/220	Racine, Wis./Park
Frank Edmonds	5-8/190	Lakewood, Ohio/St. Edward
Darren Evans	6-0/208	Indianapolis/Warren Central
Kelvin Grady	5-10/156	E. Grand Rapids, Mich./E. Grand Rapids (Michigan)
Daniel Herron	5-10/190	Warren, Ohio/Harding
Robert Hughes	6-0/220	Chicago/Hubbard
Darius Johnson	6-0/200	Highland Park, Mich./Highland Park
Jordan Mabin	5-11/185	Nordonia, Ohio/Macedonia
Dale Martin	5-11/195	Bolingbrook, III./Bolingbrook
Brandon Saine	6-0/200	Piqua, Ohio/Piqua
Morgan Williams	6-0/190	Canton, Ohio/McKinley
		CEIVERS
B.J. Cunningham	6-1/185	Westerville, Ohio/South
Mark Dell	6-1/177	Farmington Hills, Mich./Harrison
Chris Givens	6-2/180	Chillicothe, Ohio/Chillicothe
Adrien Robinson	6-5/222	Indianapolis/Warren Central
Derrick Sherman	6-0/170	Cincinnati/Withrow
Nick Toon	6-3/194	Madison, Wis./Middleton (Wisconsin)
Taurian Washington	6-0/167	Orchard Lake, Mich./St. Mary's
Tagristi Trasini Broti	100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	HT ENDS
Kendrick Bruton	6-2/201	Miamisburg, Ohio/Miamisburg
Kyle Jefferson	6-5/195	Cleveland/Glenville
Rob Reiland	6-3/225	Massillon, Ohio/Jackson
The state of the s		VE LINEMEN
Jack Cornell	6-6/285	Quincy, III./Notre Dame
Josh Oglesby	6-7/315	Milwaukee/Saint Francis
Darris Sawtelle	6-5/285	Birmingham, Mich./Brother Rice (Tennessee)
Miles Stroter	6-4/305	Chicago/King
Mark Wetterer	6-5/295	Cincinnati/Anderson
		VE LINEMEN
Joseph Barksdale (T)	6-4/315	Detroit/Cass Tech
Josh Brent (E)	6-3/280	Bloomington, III./Central Catholic
Bryan Bulaga (E)	6-5/250	Crystal Lake, III./Marian Central Catholic
Ryan Kerrigan (E)	6-5/225	Muncie, Ind./Central
Ben Martin (E)	6-5/220	Cincinnati/LaSalle
Solomon Thomas (E)	6-4/210	West Chester, Ohio/Lakota West
·		BACKERS
Chris Colasanti	6-2/209	Lakeville, Mich./Brother Rice
Andrew Dailey	6-3/215	Massillon, Ohio/Washington
Aaron Nagel	6-1/215	Lemont, III./Lemont (Notre Dame)
Kevin Rouse	6-1/216	Joliet, III./Catholic
		IVE BACKS
Dionte Allen	6-0/175	Orchard Lake, Mich./St. Mary's
Artis Chambers	6-2/185	Ft. Wayne, Ind./Snider (Michigan)
Donnie Evege	5-11/185	Huber Heights, Ohio/Wayne
Jeremy Finch	6-1/211	Indianapolis/Warren Central
Ronald Johnson	6-0/177	
Nate Oliver	6-0/177	Muskegon, Mich./Muskegon
Marcus Thomas		Lakewood, Ohio/St. Edward (Ohio State)
Devon Torrence	6-0/165	Chicago/Morgan Park
octon folience	6-0/200	Canton, Ohio/South

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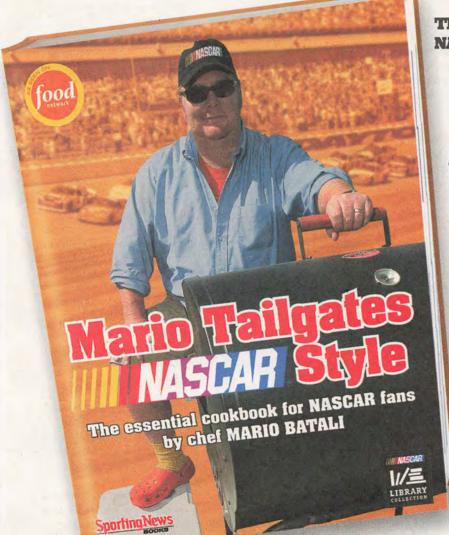
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Top 100 national prospects for 2007 (listed alphabetically)

Quarterbacks Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (College commitment)
John Brantley	6-4/190	Ocala, Fla./Trinity Catholic (Texas)
Jimmy Clausen	6-2/200	Westlake Village, Calif./Oaks Christian (Notre Dame
Willy Korn	6-1/200	Duncan, S.C./Byrnes (Clemson)
Ryan Mallett	6-7/240	Texarkana, Texas/Texas
Jason Munns	6-5/228	Kennewick, Wash./Southridge
Mike Paulus	6-5/225	Syracuse, N.Y./Christian Brothers
Tyrod Taylor	6-1/180	Hampton, Va./Hampton
Running backs		
Armando Allen	5-9/181	Hialeah, Fla./Miami Lakes
Raymond Carter	6-1/185	Los Angeles/Crenshaw (UCLA)
John Clay	6-2/220	Racine, Wis./Park
Enrique Davis	6-1/210	Lynn Haven, Fla./Mosley
Noel Devine	5-7/160	North Fort Myers, Fla./North Fort Myers
Jonathan Dwyer	6-0/200	Marietta, Ga./Kell
Broderick Green	6-2/220	Little Rock, Ark./Pulaski Academy (USC)
Ryan Houston	6-2/235	Matthews, N.C./Butler
Robert Hughes	6-0/220	Chicago/Hubbard
Cody Johnson	5-10/225	Waller, Texas/Waller (Texas)
aleb King	5-11/186	Lilburn, Ga./Parkview
eceivers		
rrelious Benn	6-1/208	Washington, D.C./Dunbar
lez Bryant	6-1/195	Lufkin, Texas/Lufkin
oney Clemons	6-3/185	New Kensington, Pa./Valley
unior Hemingway	6-2/205	Conway, S.C./Conway
Wight Jones	6-5/210	Burlington, N.C./Cummings (North Carolina)
Dion Lecorn	5-11/196	Ocala, Fla./Trinity Catholic
Greg Little	6-3/208	Durham, N.C./Hillside
Viles Paul	6-1/200	Omaha, Neb./North (Nebraska)
Deonte Thompson	6-0/180	Belle Glade, Fla./Glades Central
errance Toliver	6-5/180	Hempstead, Texas/Hempstead
srael Troupe	6-1/205	Tifton, Ga./Tift County
ansford Watson	6-4/217	Brooklyn, N.Y./Lincoln
ight ends		
aron Hernandez	6-4/235	Bristol, Conn./Bristol Central (Connecticut)
'Angelo McCray	6-5/265	Jacksonville/Andrew Jackson
Nike Ragone	6-5/230	Cherry Hill, N.J./Camden Catholic
ffensive linemen		
ray Allen	6-4/305	Grand Prairie, Texas/South Grand Prairie (Texas)
ick Claytor	6-7/305	Gainesville, Ga./Gainesville
nthony Davis	6-6/305	Piscataway, N.J./Piscataway
am DeMartinis	6-6/252	Sherman Oaks, Calif./Notre Dame
ohn Elliott	6-4/282	East Meadow, N.Y./East Meadow
ntwane Greenlee	6-6/302	Columbus, Ga./Hardaway (Florida State)
ichael Huey	6-5/290	Kilgore, Texas/Kilgore (Texas)
an Matha	6-7/310	Erie, Pa./McDowell
yan Miller	6-8/280	Littleton, Colo./Columbine
osh Oglesby	6-7/315	Milwaukee/Saint Francis
rinton Sturdivant	6-6/285	Wadesboro, N.C./Anson (Georgia)
arrian Weems	6-7/270	Woodland Hills, Calif./Taft
ames Wilson	6-5/305	St. Augustine, Fla./Nease
ee Ziemba	6-7/295	Rogers, Ark./Rogers

	(1170	ou arphaeotroarry,
Defensive linemen Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School (College commitment)
Marvin Austin	6-3/299	Washington/Coolidge
Allen Bailey	6-3/252	Darien, Ga./McIntosh County Academy
Will Blackwell	6-4/289	West Monroe, La./West Monroe
John Brown	6-2/285	Lakeland, Fla./Lakeland
Sidell Corley	6-4/265	Mobile, Ala./McGill-Toolen
Nick Gentry	6-1/268	Prattville, Ala./Prattville
Domonic Glover	6-4/230	Mission Viejo, Cali./Mission Viejo
Everson Griffen	6-4/263	Avondale, Ariz./Agua Fria
Jerry Howard	6-4/230	Orlando/Jones (Florida)
Andre Jones	6-4/305	El Paso, Texas/Andress (Texas)
Richetti Jones	6-3/234	Dallas/Lincoln
Ted Laurent	6-2/285	Powder Springs, Ga./McEachern
Ben Martin	6-5/220	Cincinnati/LaSalle
Rolando Melancon	6-2/260	Lutcher, La./Lutcher
Kerry Murphy	6-4/315	Hoover, Ala./Hoover
Brian Price	6-3/270	Los Angeles/Crenshaw
Travian Robertson	6-4/220	Laurinburg, N.C./Scotland County
Rae Sykes	6-4/230	Alcoa, Tenn./Alcoa
lan Williams	6-2/300	Longwood, Fla./Lyman
Linebackers	2 2,300	
Austin Box	6-3/215	Enid, Okla./Enid (Oklahoma)
Chris Donald	6-2/205	Huntingdon, Tenn:/Huntingdon
Stefoin François	6-2/210	Reserve, La./East St. John
Chris Galippo	6-3/225	Anaheim, Calif./Servite (USC)
Rolando McClain	6-3/230	Decatur, Ala./Decatur
Robert Mullins	6-2/205	Los Angeles/Dorsey
Keenan Robinson	6-3/211	Plano, Texas/East (Texas)
Chris Strong	6-2/240	Batesville, Miss./South Panola (Mississippi)
Marc Tyler	6-0/215	Westlake Village, Calif./Oaks Christian
J'Courtney Williams	6-4/218	Christchurch, Va./Christchurch School
Defensive backs	0 1/210	Christenorth, va./Christenorth School
Dionte Allen	6-0/175	Orchard Lake, Mich./St. Mary's
Eric Berry	6-0/180	Fairburn, Ga./Creekside
Ahmad Black	5-11/170	Lakeland, Fla./Lakeland
Ryan Broyles	5-11/160	Norman, Okla./Norman
Lorenzo Edwards	6-2/217	Orlando/Edgewater
Donnie Evege	5-11/185	Huber Heights, Ohio/Wayne
Gary Gray	5-10/170	Columbia, S.C./Richland NE (South Carolina)
Ronald Johnson	6-0/177	Muskegon, Mich./Muskegon
Chad Jones	6-3/215	Baton Rouge, La./Southern Lab
Phelon Jones	6-0/185	Mobile, Ala./McGill-Toolen
Evan Rodriguez		
Donovan Warren	6-3/200	North Bergen, N.J./North Bergen Long Beach, Calif./Poly
Major Wright	6-1/200	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas
Athletes	0-1/200	T. Laudetudie, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas
Mark Barnes	6-3/190	Columbia, S.C./Richland NE
Alphonso Bryant	6-0/186	Homestead, Fla./Homestead
John Chiles	6-1/195	Mansfield, Texas/Summit (Texas)
Marshall Jones	6-0/185	Westlake Village, Cali./Oaks Christian
Tony Logan	6-0/190	Piscataway, N.J./Piscataway
Joe McKnight	5-11/180	River Ridge, La./John Curtis
Steve Paskorz	6-2/208	Pittsburgh/Hampton
Christian Scott	6-0/185	Dallas/Skyline
Malcolm Smith	6-2/200	Woodland Hills, Cali./Taft
Golden Tate		
Earl Thomas	5-11/175	Hendersonville, Tenn./Pope John Paul II
Lair Hollids	5-10/174	Orange, Texas/West-Orange Stark (Texas)

Mario Tailga MASGAR S



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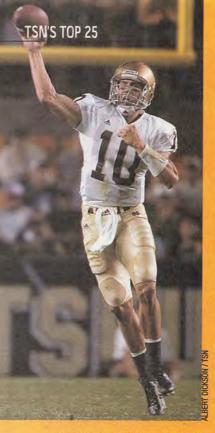
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- 1. Notre Dame. QB Brady Quinn, WR Jeff Samardzija and RB Darius Walker are a holy trinity on offense. But the big question is: Have the Irish learned to cover?
- 2. Ohio State. The good news: QB Troy Smith, RB Antonio Pittman and WRs Anthony Gonzalez and Ted Ginn-aka the "Fun Bunch"come back. The bad? All but two defensive starters don't.
- 3. Auburn. The SEC's best running backs and line will trample foes. DEs Marquies Gunn and Quentin Groves are scary-good, but Auburn is on its third defensive coordinator in three years.
- 4. LSU. The best group of receivers in the SEC will be there to help

- QB JaMarcus Russell take the next step, and the secondary is second to none in the league. But questions abound at linebacker.
- 5. West Virginia. A strong O-line provides an escort for QB Patrick White and RB Steve Slaton. The secondary is littered with inexperience, and there are few differencemakers on defense.
- 6. Southern California. The defense might be the nation's best, and Dwayne Jarrett paces a star-studded receivers corps. But the departure of two Heisman Trophy winners leaves holes on offense.
- 7. Texas. QB Vince Young has left the building. Who's next? At least the offensive line is tops in the Big 12, and lots of options return at running back, including Jamaal Charles.
- 8. Florida. Brandon Siler leads a top linebacker unit, and the defensive line is full of playmakers. But the Gators' running game hasn't exactly pleased Urban Meyer.
- 9. Oklahoma. The Sooners are hungry to make amends for last season's performance. Whether they can depends on whether RB Adrian Peterson stays healthy and QB Rhett Bomar steps up.
- 10. Florida State. The defense is a work in progress, but QB Drew Weatherford is an emerging talent. RBs Lorenzo Booker and Antone Smith are big-play threats.
- 11. Iowa. QB Drew Tate and RB Albert Young form a potent 1-2 punch behind the best offensive

- line in the Big Ten. New cornerbacks and linebackers must be worked in.
- 12. Georgia. Depth along both lines is thin, and there's no obvious successor to QB D.J. Shockley. There's plenty of talent at running back and linebacker. DE Quentin Moses is pass-rushing terror.
- 13. California. WR DeSean Jackson is a big-play weapon, and RBs Marshawn Lynch and Justin Forsett are formidable. Still, Jeff Tedford needs a guarterback to run his offense.
- 14. Miami. The core of a vicious defense returns. QB Kyle Wright continues to mature, but he'll be protected by an offensive line with four new starters.
- 15. Penn State. The best set of linebackers in the country return to Happy Valley, and Derrick Williams leads an exciting group of receivers. But the secondary needs four new starters.
- 16. Virginia Tech. No more Vicks at VaTech means the Hokies need a new quarterback to throw to what could be the team's best group of receivers ever.
- 17. Michigan. QB Chad Henne and RB Mike Hart want to bring the swagger back to Ann Arbor. Depth at . receiver and a strong defensive line will help their cause.
- 18. Tennessee. The return of offensive coordinator David Cutcliffe could be just what QB Erik Ainge needs. Ainge also needs the Vols' rebuilt offensive line to stand

- up to SEC defenses and open holes for RB Arian Foster.
- 19. Louisville. Rising star QB Brian Brohm must prove he is over his knee injury. He throws to a deep group of receivers headed by Mario Urrutia. RB Michael Bush is a workhorse.
- 20. Texas Tech. Lubbock is home to offensive wizard Mike Leach and the Big 12's best stable of receivers. Tech breaks in a new quarterback, but that hasn't been a problem the past three years.
- 21. TCU. The best linebackers you've never heard of play for the Horned Frogs. The backfield features three quality running backs, but four new starters on the offensive line need to jell quickly.
- 22. Nebraska. Bill Callahan's system is more entrenched, and Zac Taylor looks like the answer at quarterback. But RB Cory Ross must be replaced, and more receiving targets are needed.
- 23. Oregon. RB Jonathan Stewart looks ready to be a star, and all five starting O-linemen return. There's uncertainty at quarterback; Dennis Dixon and Brady Leaf could share the starting job.
- 24. Clemson. With RB James Davis. lots of talent at receiver and an offensive line built to dominate, the pressure is on new QB Will Proctor to deliver. Can he be The Man?
- 25. Alabama. Talent runneth over at running back for the Tide, but Bama needs to find a replacement for QB Brodie Croyle. A healthy WR Tyrone Prothro would help, too.

- 26. Inwa State
- 27. Purdue
- 28. Arizona State
- 29. Boston College
- 30. UCLA
- 31. Boise State 32. Northern Illinois
- 33. Wisconsin
- 34. Utah
- 35. Texas A&M
- 36. Fresno State

- 37. South Carolina 38. LITEP
- 39. Georgia Tech
- 40. Missouri
- 41. BYU
- 42. Pitt
- 43. Nevada
- 44. Arizona
- 45. Arkansas
- 46. Akron
- 47. Maryland
- 48. Navy
- 49. Tulsa
- 50. South Florida

- 51. Toledo
- 52. UCF
- 54. Minnesota
- 57. Connecticut

- 59. Kansas
- 61. Oregon State
- 63. Bowling Green 64. Michigan State

- 53. Mississippi
- 55. Washington State
- 56. N.C. State
- 58. North Carolina
- 60. Wake Forest
- 62. Southern Miss
- 65. Virginia 66. Rutgers 67. Houston
- 68. Kansas State
- 69. Hawaii 70. Colorado State
- 71. Stanford 72. Miami (Ohio)
- 73. New Mexico 74. San Diego State 75. Colorado
- 76. Memphis 77. Northwestern 78. Baylor

- 79. Oklahoma State 80. Wyoming
- 81. Louisiana Tech
- 82. Marshall 83. Washington
- 84. Kentucky 85. Illinois
- 86. Cincinnati 87. Mississippi State 88. East Carolina
- 89. Vanderbilt 90. Indiana
- 91. Air Force 92. SMU

- 93. Louisiana-Lafayette
- 94. UAB 95. North Texas
- 96. Ball State 97. UNLV
- 98. San Jose State
- 99. Syracuse 100. Western Michigan
- 101 Duke
- 102 Ohio 103. Utah State
- 104. Middle Tennessee 105. Arkansas State
- 106. Troy

- 107. Kent State
- 108. Army 109. Tulane
- 110. Idaho
- 111. New Mexico State 112. Florida International
- 113. Central Michigan
- 114. Temple
- 115. Rice
- 116. Louisiana-Monroe
- 117. Eastern Michigan 118. Florida Atlantic
- 119, Buffalo



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2006 SCHEDULES

ILLINOIS

Sept. 2 Sept. 9 at Rutgers Sept. 16 Syracuse Sept. 23 lowa Sept. 30 at Michigan State Indiana Oct. 14 Ohio Oct. 21 at Penn State Oct. 28 at Wisconsin Nov. 4 Ohio State Nov. 11 Nov. 18 at Northwestern

MICHIGAN

Vanderbilt Sept. 2 Sept. 9 Central Michigan Sept. 16 at Notre Dame Sept. 23 Wisconsin Sept. 30 at Minnesota Michigan State Oct. 14 at Penn State Oct. 21 lowa Oct. 28 Northwestern Ball State Nov. 4 Nov. 11 at Indiana Nov. 18 at Ohio State

NORTHWESTERN

Aug. 31 at Miami (Ohio) Sept. 9 New Hampshire Sept. 16 Eastern Michigan Sept. 22 at Nevada Sept. 30 at Penn State at Wisconsin Oct. 14 Purdue Michigan State Oct. 21 Oct. 28 at Michigan Nov. 4 at lowa Nov. 11 Ohio State Nov. 18

PURDUE Sept. 2

Nov. 25

Sept. 9 Miami (Ohio) Sept. 16 Ball State Sept. 23 Minnesota Sept. 30 at Notre Dame at lowa at Northwestern Oct. 21 Oct. 28 Penn State at Michigan State Nov. 11 at Illinois Nov. 18 Indiana

at Hawaii

Indiana State

INDIANA

Sept. 2 Sept. 9 at Ball State Sept. 16 Southern Illinois Sept. 23 Connecticut Sept. 30 Wisconsin at Illinois Oct. 14 at Ohio State Oct. 28 Michigan State at Minnesota Nov. 4 Nov. 11 at Purdue Nov. 18

MICHIGAN STATE

Sept. 2 Sept. 16 at Pitt Sept. 23 Notre Dame Sept. 30 Illinois Ohio State Oct. 21 at Northwestern Oct. 28 at Indiana Nov. 4 Minnesota Nov. 18 at Penn State

OHIO STATE

Sept. 2 Sept. 9 at Texas Sept. 16 Cincinnati Sept. 23 Penn State **Bowling Green** Oct. 14 at Michigan State Oct. 21 Oct. 28 at Illinois at Northwestern Nov. 18

WISCONSIN

Nov. 18

Bowling Green Sept. 9 Sept. 16 San Diego State Sept. 23 at Michigan Sept. 30 at Indiana Oct. 7 Northwestern Oct. 14 Oct. 21 at Purdue Oct. 28 Penn State at lowa

Buffalo

IOWA

Sept. 2 Montana at Syracuse Sept. 16 Iowa State Sept. 23 at Illinois Sept. 30 Ohio State at Indiana Oct. 28 Northern Illinois Northwestern Nov. 11 Wisconsin at Minnesota Nov. 18

MINNESOTA

at Kent State Sept. 9 at California Sept. 16 Temple Sept. 23 at Purdue Sept. 30 Michigan at Wisconsin North Dakota State Oct. 21 Oct. 28 at Ohio State Nov. 4 Indiana at Michigan State Nov. 18

PENN STATE

Sept. 2 at Notre Dame Sept. 16 Youngstown State Sept. 23 at Ohio State Sept. 30 Northwestern at Minnesota Illinois Oct. 28 at Purdue Nov. 4 at Wisconsin Nov. 11 Temple Michigan State

BIG TEN BOWL LINEUP

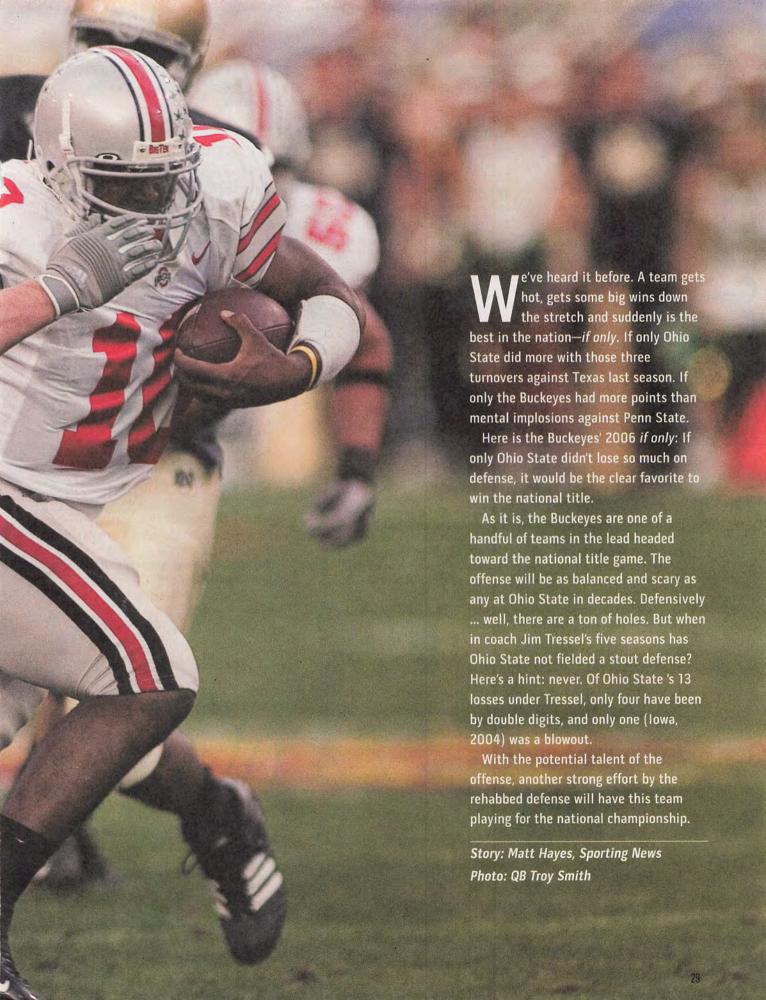
Alamo: Big Ten vs. Big 12 Capital One: Big Ten vs. SEC Champs Sports: Big Ten vs. ACC Insight: Big Ten vs. Big 12 Outback: Big Ten vs. SEC Rose: Big Ten vs. Pac-10

2

OHIO STATE

DFINISH Overall: 11-1 Conference: 8-0/1st

MICHAEL MCNAMAR



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Date	Opponent	What it means	TSN pick
Sept. 2	Northern Illinois	No MAC team looks more like a Big Ten team, so expect a stern test.	W
Sept. 9	at Texas	Aside from a shot at a national championship—and revenge—there's nothing on the line.	L
Sept. 16	Cincinnati	Has the makings of a classic letdown game after the showdown in Austin.	W
Sept. 23	Penn State	This will be a Big Ten title elimination bout—and yet another chance for revenge.	W
Sept. 30	at Iowa	Rarely is a league championship decided in late September. But that could happen in Iowa City.	W
Oct. 7	Bowling Green	Upset alert! A game vs. an in-state little brother the week after a big road game.	W
Oct. 14	at Michigan State	Spartans usually play to the level of their competition. So, expect a dogfight.	W
Oct. 21	Indiana	The closest thing to an off week. Translation: Get the starters out by the third quarter.	W
Oct. 28	Minnesota	Glen Mason loves nothing more than to beat his home-state Buckeyes. Ohio State knows this.	W
Nov. 4	at Illinois	Motivation? For starters, the Big Ten title could be within sight.	W
Nov. 11	at Northwestern	Time to pay back the Wildcats, who beat Ohio State the last time the Buckeyes visited.	W
Nov. 18	Michigan	It could be 72 degrees and sunny the next 364 days in Columbus. Lose here, and it won't matte	r. W

SCHEDULE CHENCH

Sure, the Michigan game always is big, but there really are only two games to circle: at Texas and at lowa. Win both, and the Buckeyes could be perfect heading into their showdown with the Wolverines, who seem to be slipping. Opening Big Ten play against Penn State is a perfect table-setter. Looking for a trapdoor game? The trip to Michigan State is it.

-Comments and predictions by Sporting News

I don't think **Troy Smith** is a very good thrower, but he could play for me. I'd take him tomorrow. ... I think they're a good offense. They're always gonna have talent. I think **Jim Tressel** has a certain amount of conservatism in him. ... I'm not so sure about Tressel getting criticized for not using WR **Ted Ginn** enough. That's B.S. You can't be predictably good at getting the ball to a receiver. If you have that guy lined up at running back, it's a little different. I think it's harder to do than you'd like it to be. ... Their offensive line played a lot better last year.

... I think RB Antonio Pittman is a really good back. I think he has really grown in the program. I'm not

SCOUTING THE BUCKEYES

Views from a pro scout or an opposing coach

saying he's
O.J. Simpson,
but he's real
good. ... The
defense gets
after you. They'll
bring it from
everywhere. You

better buckle up. And they're athletic enough to cover it up. All those linebackers are gone, but they typically reload at Ohio State. ... They're gonna challenge you up front on defense because they feel they can catch up in the back half if they mess up. Like most lines that are good, they don't let you get to the second level. They grab you, hold you up, hold their gap and don't let you get to the second level, and the linebackers play downhill. ... They weren't as assertive on defense back in 2004, and that might be the case this year with their personnel losses. But they like to attack us, I know that.

BLOG ALERT

'Is there a better big-game

coach than Jim Tressel?
I think not. Why? Because he's not afraid to think outside his sweater vest.
The defense? Reloaded.
Big games with Texas,
Penn State, Iowa and
Michigan lurk. And so might a national title.'

For more of Tom Dienhart's take on Ohio State, go to www.sportingnews.com



INSIDE THE STATE S

Backfield Quarterback Troy Smith's performance in the victory over Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl was nearly flawless, cementing his status as a Heisman Trophy candidate and-more importantly-as a player who can carry a team. He's accurate and has a strong arm but needs to trust his protection longer. Too often, Smith will bail on a play and use his legs to make something happen. This is a problem for two reasons: Ohio State has dangerous weapons in the passing game that are being misused, and Smith is fumbleprone. But his running ability has brought an added dimension to the offense with the read option, which allows him to get to the outside and give opponents another threat to defend.

Justin Zwick is a more than capable backup with a strong, accurate arm.

Running back Antonio Pittman didn't really hit his stride until the last month of last season. A speedy, powerful slasher, he'd be a Heisman candidate on just about any other

team. Then there's super recruit Chris Wells, who enrolled early and looked so impressive in spring practice that he'll be more than a shortyardage, situational back. Maurice Wells is a change-of-pace scatback. Fullback Stan White is a solid lead blocker.

Receivers It all

starts with the speed and dynamic ability of Ted Ginn, the nation's most electrifying player. But there's one nagging problem: It took him nearly half a season to get jump-started in each of his two years in Columbus. There are two reasons for this: Ginn didn't understand the technical and route-running aspects of playing wide receiver in college. And the staff didn't do enough work in figuring out how to get him the ball, regardless of his knowledge of the position. Ginn made big strides this spring and finally is the team's

Pittmar

No. 1 option at the position.

Anthony Gonzalez has gone from a possession receiver to a legitimate No. 2. He has fantastic hands, likes to go over the middle and has terrific speed. Roy Hall is a big, physical player with speed who will be a matchup problem once he becomes more consistent. Redshirt freshman Brian Hartline, who had a huge spring, is the future for a unit that lost Santonio Holmes early to the NFL.

The staff wants to get the tight end more involved after two straight subpar seasons from the position. Rory Nichol and Marcel Frost are big, active targets who will be counted on should their games become more complete. Nichol missed last year with a foot injury but could be special. Still, the first priority for an Ohio State tight end is to block.

Line Forget about the concerns of replacing two key starters. This

unit, on potential, could be Ohio State's best in Jim Tressel's tenure.

Doug Datish moves to center from tackle to give the unit more experience and leadership inside—and because Alex Boone is emerging at left tackle. Boone has the size and wingspan to dominate. He started five games last season at right tackle as a true freshman filling in for injured Kirk Barton, who returns to the right

side. Boone, potentially the team's best lineman since Orlando Pace, and Barton form a terrific duo at tackle.

Inside, the 'Bucks have size with guards
Steve Rehring and T.J. Downing, 300pounders with quick feet. Datish could move
to left guard if Rehring doesn't play with more
consistency. But that move would leave the
unit with redshirt freshman Jim Cordle, who's
undersized but technically sound, directing
the line at center. Either way, building chemistry is the No. 1 goal.

PHILOSOPHY

This is going to get interesting.

Jim Tressel's conservative philosophy of running the ball, playing tough defense and being sound in special teams is going to take a hit. He loosened up in the second half of 2005 after the Penn State loss, and quarterback Troy Smith completely changed the identity of the offense. There will be more spread formations and more of Smith creating and free-lancing.

RREAKO J PLAYER

RB Chris Wells is a big, powerful, deceptively fast incoming freshman who can get tough yards. Now, the difficult question: How to get him on the field? Antonio Pittman ran for 1,331 yards last season and developed into a breakaway threat. Taking carries from Pittman could disrupt continuity and chemistry. But if both accept their roles, they could become like Auburn's 2004 duo of Carnell Williams and Ronnie Brown.

	010	100	Age of the same			
	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	WR	7	Ted Ginn 🛦	6-0	175	Jr.
		80	Brian Robiskie	6-3	190	So.
	LT	75	Alex Boone A	6-8	315	So.
		78	Daniel Dye	6-3	271	Jr.
	LG	71	Steve Rehring	6-8	329	So
		79	Jon Skinner	6-5	300	So.
لللا	C	50	Doug Datish A	6-5	295	Sr.
		64	Jim Cordle	6-5	275	Fr.
1	RG	72	T.J. Downing A	6-5	305	Sr.
		68	Tim Schafer	6-5	290	Sr.
	RT	74	Kirk Barton A	6-7	325	Jr.
		65	Doug Ebner	6-4	285	So.
	TE	88	Rory Nicol A	6-5	260	So.
12		81	Marcel Frost	6-5	255	Jr.
	WR	11	Anthony Gonzalez	6-0	195	Jr.
		8	Roy Hall A	6-3	240	Sr.
	QB	10	Troy Smith A	6-1	215	Sr.
		12	Justin Zwick A	6-4	225	Sr.
The same of	RB	25	Antonio Pittman A	5-11	195	Jr.
		34	Maurice Wells	5-10	190	So.
	FB	89	Stan White	6-3	242	Sr.
-		49	Dionte Johnson	6-0	250	Jr.
1000	K	20	Aaron Pettrey	6-1	184	Fr.
	KR	7	Ted Ginn	6-0	175	Jr.
	Retu	rning	starters in bold *True fre	shman		
	AN	FL pr	ospect			

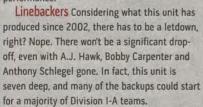


Line The unit lacked speed off the edge last season and needs an upgrade at end. Someone must fill the pass-rushing role departed Mike Kudla provided. There were thoughts of moving linebacker Mike D'Andrea to end. But his health (knee) is a concern, and he missed spring practice, which ended that discussion. Jay Richardson is solid at one end but isn't much of a pass rusher. Lawrence Wilson isn't as heavy as the staff would like, but his 6-6 frame and big wingspan make him a tough matchup if he can develop a first step or pass-rush move. Then there's Vernon Gholston, who stumbled through a freshman season of nagging injuries and never developed. He was the most consistent end in spring drills, showing a quick get-off and upper-body strength. Alex Barrow is a solid fourth option.

The strength of the unit is inside, where tackles Quinn Pitcock and David Patterson are

Pitcock

active run stuffers and underrated pass rushers. Pitcock will be one of the nation's top tackles, Nader Abdallah and Joel Penton give the unit a four-man rotation, and possibly more if Abdallah plays to his enormous potential. Undersized redshirt freshman Todd Denlinger also could factor in, especially after a big spring performance.



John Kerr, who began his career at Indiana, will man the middle and is set for a big season after being a reserve the past two years. The remaining two starters are set, but both will have to fend off fall camp challenges. Former uber-recruit Marcus Freeman is back from a knee-

injury and will give the unit a blitzing presence from the weakside spot. James Laurinaitis played well late last year in place of the injured Carpenter at the strongside spot but is being pressed by touted junior college transfer Larry Grant and Curtis Terry. Then there's Ross Homan, a blue-chip recruit who enrolled early, caught on quickly and had a big spring. If Homan continues to progress, he will play. He's slotted at the weak side but could move to the strong side to get on the field.

Secondary No group grew as much in the spring as the secondary, which went from a serious concern to a unit that could be a strength by the end of the season. That's a good thing, considering the staff has to replace four starters. Two

left early for the NFL: cornerback Ashton Youboty and strong safety Donte Whitner.

Cornerback Malcolm Jenkins is the unit's next star. He started four games last season as a true freshman and showed an ability to break on the ball and play aggressively. That's the good news. The bad news:
Diminutive Antonio Smith, a former walk-on, is the projected starter at the other corner. He never has played the position until now. In fact, he never really has played defense. Smith has been a special teams player for much of his career, but he surprised the staff with his relative ease of his transition and

could be a solid addition. Freshman Kurt Coleman enrolled early and will push for time once he better understands the coverages.

Jamario O'Neal and Brandon Mitchell were penciled in as starters at strong and free safety before the spring. But redshirt freshman Anderson Russell and sophomore Nick Patterson played so well, the four will battle in camp for the starting spots. Russell and Patterson still need to learn the nuances of the secondary and aren't always in position, but they have speed and are aggressive in run support.

PHILOSOPHY

Not much has changed the past five seasons—other than two coordinators (Mark Dantonio, Mark Snyder) leaving for head coaching jobs. So, at the least, this job is a springboard for bigger and better things. The Buckeyes play fast and active, and Jim Heacock's defense is based on the front four supplying pressure and funneling plays to quick, aggressive linebackers.

BREAROUTPLAYER

LB Marcus Freeman played a backup role as a freshman in 2004, redshirted last season with a knee injury and has been forgotten. However, it won't be long before Freeman assumes control of the defense, both from a star standpoint and as a leader. The defense will feed off his energy and speed (see: A.J. Hawk, circa 2004-05). Freeman will dominate from a weakside spot that will allow him to free-lance in run and pass situations.

						-
AND	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
1 12 30	E	87	Lawrence Wilson A	6-6	225	So.
		50	Vernon Gholston	6-4	260	So.
	T	97	David Patterson A	6-3	285	Sr.
		95	Sian Cotton	6-4	315	Jr.
9	T	90	Quinn Pitcock A	6-3	295	Sr.
None of the		98	Joel Penton	6-5	290	Sr.
	E	99-	Jay Richardson	6-6	276	Sr.
		78	Alex Barrow	6-4	255	So.
111	SLB	33	James Laurinaitis	6-3	231	So.
Constant of		55	Curtis Terry	6-2	220	Jr.
	MLB	52	John Kerr 🛦	6-1	246	Sr.
		5	Mike D'Andrea A	6-3	248	Sr.
No.	WLB	1	Marcus Freeman A	6-2	230	So.
I		38	Austin Spitler	6-3	228	Fr.
NOT S	RCB	14	Antonio Smith	5-9	195	Sr.
-		20	Donald Washington	6-1	185	Fr.
1	SS	3	Jamario O'Neal 🛦	6-1	180	So.
		37	Anderson Russell	6-0	190	Fr.
	FS	35	Nick Patterson A	6-2	210	So.
1000		32	Brandon Mitchell	6-3	205	Sr.
-	LCB	2	Malcolm Jenkins A	6-1	180	So.
		24	Mike Roberts	5-11	185	Sr.
	P	15	A.J. Trapasso A	6-1	220	So.
	PR	7	Ted Ginn	6-0	175	Jr.
10.195	Retu	rning	starters in bold *True fr	eshman		
1			ospect			
1000						

2-MINUTE DRILL WITH OB TROY SMITH

The worst nickname I've had: Defensive lineman Jay Richardson calls me "Camel Knees." If you look at a camel, their kneecaps are pointed in. I have knock knees, so he started calling me that. My joke back to them is, "It's real hard to catch these camel knees."

The Buckeyes' biggest locker room prankster: It probably would be Ted Ginn. He's always got a joke going. If he finds someone who leaves their shoes outside their locker, he'll tape

them up. He'll put pre-wrap around their whole shoe, then he'll put a stretchy tape, then actual athletic tape. He's never gotten me. I've learned—I put mine up.

My most intense teammate: John Kerr, our middle linebacker. Once he gets into his preparation for the game, he zones out. He turns on his rock music and blasts it. He gets into it

My favorite moment as a college player: When I got to see the final seconds tick down at Michigan this past year. It was a come-from-behind victory, and everybody played his part.

QUICK HITS

Darrell Hazell (3rd year)

Where they play

Stadium: Ohio (grass, 101,568) Site: Columbus, Ohio Tickets: 800-462-8257

What they run

Offensive scheme: Multiple Defensive scheme: 4-3

The last time

They won a league title: 2005 (tie) They didn't play in a bowl: 1999

Coaching staff

Head coach: Jim Tressel (50-13, 5 years; 9th at school) Assistant head coach/wide receivers: Offensive coordinator/offensive line:
Jim Bollman (6th season)
Defensive coordinator/defensive line:
Jim Heacock (2nd year, 11th at school)
Co-defensive coordinator/linebackers:
Luke Fickell (2nd year, 5th year)
Cornerbacks: Tim Beckman (2nd year)
Passing game coordinator/
quarterbacks: Joe Daniels (3rd year, 6th at school)

Safeties: Paul Haynes (2nd year) Recruiting coordinator/tight ends: John Peterson (3rd year, 5th at school)

Running backs: Dick Tressel (3rd year)



JAY DROWNS / TSN

Tressel

COACHING

He's reserved, he's conservative, his teams are boring. And he flat out knows how to win big games. Say what you want about Jim Tressel, but he's 4-1 against Michigan and has won one

> national title, three BCS games and two Big Ten championships. Translation: "The Senator" could run for governor in Ohio and get 80 percent of the vote.

With each season, the button-down Tressel is becoming more multiple with his offensive game plan, and the results are impressive. The 53-year-old native son continues to keep a

cohesive staff despite losing numerous assistants to head coaching jobs

and/or NFL gigs. But Tressel's staff experienced no turnover after last season.

Jim Bollman does a fantastic job as offensive line coach and coordinating the offense in practice (Tressel is the play-caller).

In his brief tenure, assistant head coach/receivers coach Darrell Hazell already has made an immediate impact: He's credited with Ted Ginn's improved understanding of the position this spring and with Santonio Holmes' emergence as one of the nation's top receivers last season.

Rising young co-defensive coordinator/linebackers coach Luke Fickell figures to be the next assistant to receive offers from other schools.

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

SPECIAL TEAMS

Redshirt freshman Aaron Pettrey has a strong leg and will get the first opportunity to kick. He struggled with consistency in the spring and was pushed by Ryan Pretorius. Pettrey would've been last year's starter had Josh Huston not received a sixth year of eligibility, and the staff feels he's ready. He better be, considering Ohio State's penchant for close games. The unknown: How will Pettrey respond to a couple of missed kicks?

Punter A.J. Trapasso did a solid job last season but needs to be more consistent.

Ted Ginn has run back five punts and a kickoff for touchdowns. Enough said. Look for Anthony Gonzalez to join Ginn as dual return men—much like last season with Santonio Holmes—to keep teams from avoiding Ginn.

RECRUITING 2006

National rank 12 Conference rank 2

Name	P05.	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/school
	**** Am	ong the nati	on's top 30 prospects
Robert Rose	DE .	6-5/260	Cleveland/Glenville
Chris Wells	RB	6-1/225	Akron, Ohio/Garfield
	*** Amon	g the nation	n's top 200 prospects
Kurt Coleman	DB	5-11/185	Clayton, Ohio/Northmont
Thaddeus Gibson	LB	6-3/220	Euclid, Ohio/Euclid
Larry Grant	LB	6-3/225	Norcross, Ga./City College of San Francisco
Ross Homan	LB	6-1/237	Coldwater, Ohio/Coldwater
Mark Johnson	LB	6-4/230	Los Angeles/Dorsey
Ray Small	WR	6-0/175	Cleveland/Glenville
Connor Smith	OL.	6-5/295	Cincinnati/Colerain
	*** Among	the nation'	s top 500 prospects
Jake Ballard	TE	6-7/255	Springboro, Ohio/Springboro
Bryant Browning	OL	6-4/328	Cleveland/Glenville
Chimidi Chekwa	DB	6-1/180	Clermont, Fla./East Ridge
Walter Dublin	DE	6-3/235	Sarasota, Fla./Sarasota
Aaron Gant	DB	6-0/205	Orchard Lake, Mich./St. Mary's
Antonio Henton	QB	6-2/210	Fort Valley, Ga./Peach County
Dexter Larimore	DT	6-3/275	Merrillville, Ind./Merrillville
Andy Miller	TE	6-6/250	Washington, Pa./Trinity
Tyler Moeller	LB	6-1/205	Cincinnati/Colerain
Aram Olson	FB	6-2/252	Columbia, S.C./Irmo
Grant Schwartz	DB	6-0/200	Dana Hills, Calif./Dana Hills

much bigger than the nation's

No. 3 player, RB Chris Wells. The
Buckeyes could use the bruiser
immediately as an every-down
back, given his ability to run
between the tackles and
also get outside with

Biggest get: It doesn't get

his speed. Wells easily could be a star this season—he's that good.

Biggest miss: Ohio
State landed virtually
everyone it brought in for an
official visit. The Buckeyes would
have loved to have signed CB A.J.
Wallace (Pomfret, Md./McDonough)
and LB Navorro Bowman
(Suitland, Md./Suitland), who
both landed at Penn State.

Instant impact: Wells should make an immediate dent, and LBs Thaddeus Gibson, Larry Grant, Ross Homan and Mark Johnson all could get playing time this season.

Diamond in the rough:

LB Tyler Moeller has a chance to be a big-time player. He has a great frame and a nonstop motor. He might not be as polished as others, but he could be special one day.

Battleground: Ohio State signed seven of the state's top 10 recruits. Michigan invaded to steal top 10 talents in OL Justin Boren (Pickerington/North) and LB Cobrani Mixon (Cincinnati/ Colerain), and Virginia Tech grabbed OL Aaron Brown

(Cincinnati/Princeton).

Fun facts: DE Robert Rose has been playing football for only three years. ... Ohio State signed players from eight

states, including talent-rich California, Florida and Georgia ... Glenville (Cleveland) continues to be a pipeline; Ohio State landed three players from the school that also sent Ted Ginn and Troy Smith to Columbus. Ted Ginn Sr. coaches Glenville, which produced 11 Division I-A recruits this year. ... Assistant Luke Fickell was named one of the nation's top 25 recruiters after reeling in Gibson, Grant, Johnson and a slew of other blue-chippers. Tim Beckman is another assistant who always receives plaudits for his recruiting. ... Grant committed to Florida last fall but failed to meet SEC standards. Ohio State swooped in and welcomed him in time for spring drills.

-Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

DETI	IDAIL	NO I	FA	DEDC	
KLII	IKMI	Nb I	_EA	DERS	

RUSHING		At	t.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Antonio Pittman		243	3 1	,331	5.5	7
Troy Smith		136	5	611	4.5	11
Maurice Wells		6	1	199	3.3	1
PASSING	Comp.	Att.	Pc	t. Yds.	TD	Int.
Troy Smith	149	237	62.5	2,282	! 16	4
Justin Zwick	42	58	72.	4 359	1	1
RECEIVING		Re	c.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Ted Ginn		5	1	803	15.7	4
Anthony Gonzalez		2	8	373	13.3	3
KICK/PUNT RETU	RNS		No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Ted Ginn			43	782	18.2	2
KICKING		XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
None						
TACKLES	Solo	Assis	sts	Total	TFL,	/Yds.
Malcolm Jenkins	23	14		37	(0/0
Quina Ditcock	14	1/		28		2/5

Sacks: Patterson (4)

David Patterson

Interceptions: Brandon Mitchell (1)

KEY LOSSES

Offense TE Ryan Hamby; WR Santonio Holmes (team-high 53 rec., 977 yards, 11 TDs); K Josh Huston (22 of 28 FGs, 44 of 45 PATs); C Nick Mangold; FB Brandon Schnittker; T Rob Sims.

7.5/18

24

Defense LB Bobby Carpenter (49 tackles, 10.5 tackles for loss, 8 sacks); CB Tyler Everett (33 tackles); T Marcus Green (37 tackles); LB A.J. Hawk (team-high 121 tackles, team-high 16.5 tackles for loss, 9.5 sacks); E Mike Kudla (41 tackles, 11.5 tackles for loss, 9.5 sacks); S Nate Salley (43 tackles); LB Anthony Schlegel (82 tackles, 7 tackles for loss); S Donte Whitner (73 tackles, 9 tackles for loss, 4 sacks); CB Ashton Youboty (56 tackles, 6 tackles for loss).

2005 TEAM STATISTICS

	Average	Rank
Rushing offense	196.7	4th Big Ten/24th nation
Rushing defense	73.4	1st/1st
Passing offense	225.7	6th/52nd
Passing defense	207.9	3rd/T43rd
Total offense	422.3	6th/32nd
Total defense	281.3	1st/5th
Turnover differential	-9	10th/104th

2005 RESULTS (10-2, 7-1/T1st Big Ten)

Miami (Ohio)	W, 34-14	at Minnesota	W, 45-31
Texas	L, 25-22	Illinois	W, 40-2
San Diego State	W. 27-6	Northwestern	W, 48-7
Iowa	W, 31-6	at Michigan	W, 25-21
at Penn State	L. 17-10	Notre Dame*	W, 34-20
Michigan State	W. 35-24	*Fiesta Bowl	1
at Indiana	W. 41-10		

TRACKING THE WINS

Bowl victory



RIICKEYES ROSTER

	CKEYES ROST	Ht./Wt.	CI.	Exp.	Hometown/previous school
				ARTERBA	THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T
7	Todd Boeckman	6-5/235	So.	SO	St. Henry, Ohio/St. Henry
6	Rob Schoenhoft	6-6/225	Fr.	RS	Mason, Ohio/St. Xavier
0	Troy Smith	6-1/215	Sr.	3L	Cleveland/Glenville
2	Justin Zwick	6-4/225	Sr.	2L NNING BA	Massillon, Ohio/Washington
	Erik Haw	6-1/212	So.	SO SO	Columbus, Ohio/Independence
9	Dionte Johnson (FB)	6-0/250	Jr.	2L	Columbus, Ohio/Eastmoor Academy
5	Antonio Pittman	5-11/195	Jr.	2L	Akron, Ohio/Buchtel
4	Maurice Wells	5-10/190	So.	1L	Jacksonville/Sandalwood
9	Stan White (FB)	6-3/242	Sr.	3L	Baltimore/Gilman School
			RECEIV	ERS/TIGH	
	Albert Dukes	6-1/190	So.	50	Belle Glade, Fla./Glades Central
1	Marcel Frost (TE)	6-5/255	Jr.	50	South Euclid, Ohio/Lyndhurst Brush
1	Ted Ginn Anthony Gonzalez	6-0/175	Jr. Jr.	2L 2L	Cleveland/Glenville Cleveland/St. Ignatius
	Roy Hall	6-3/240	Sr.	3L	Cleveland/Lyndhurst Brush
4	Brian Hartline	6-3/180	Fr.	RS	North Canton, Ohio/GlenOak
2	Devin Jordan	6-2/205	Jr.	SO	Massillon, Ohio/Massillon Washington
8	Rory Nicol (TE)	6-5/260	So.	1L	Beaver, Pa./Beaver Area
0	Brian Robiskie	6-3/190	So.	1L	Cleveland/Chagrin Falls
7	Brandon Smith (TE)	6-3/240	So.	1L	Euclid, Ohio/Euclid Senior
			75,000	NSIVE LIN	
4	Kirk Barton (T)	6-7/325	Jr.	2L	Massillon, Ohio/Massillon Perry
5	Alex Boone (T)	6-8/315	So.	SQ	Lakewood, Ohio/St. Edwards
0	Jim Cordle (C) Doug Datish (C)	6-5/275	Fr. Sr.	RS 2L	Lancaster, Ohio/Lancaster Warren, Ohio/Howland
2	T.J. Downing (G)	6-5/305	Sr.	2L	Canton, Ohio/GlenOak
8	Daniel Dye (T)	6-3/271	Jr.	SO	Napoleon, Ohio/Napoleon
5	Doug Ebner (T)	6-4/285	So.	SO	Hershey, Pa./Hershey
7	Kyle Mitchum (G)	6-6/295	So.	SQ	Erie, Pa./McDowell
3	Ben Person (G)	6-4/315	So.	1L	Xenia, Ohio/Xenia
1	Steve Rehring (G)	6-8/329	So.	11	West Chester, Ohio/Lakota West
8	Tim Schafer (G/T)	6-5/290	Sr.	3L 1L	Upper Arlington, Ohio/Upper Arlington Mount Carmel, Pa./Mount Carmel Area
9	Jon Skinner (G) Tyler Whaley (C)	6-5/300	So.	SO	Ironton, Ohio/Ironton
4	Tyler wildley (C)	0-1/210		NSIVE LII	
3	Nader Abdallah (T)	6-5/300	So.	SO LII	Metairie, La./Archbishop Rummel
8	Alex Barrow (E)	6-4/255	So.	SO	Dublin, Ohio/Dublin Coffman
5	Sian Cotton (T)	6-4/315	Jr.	SQ	Akron, Ohio/St. Vincent-St. Mary
2	Todd Denlinger (T)	6-3/265	Fr.	RS	Troy, Ohio/Troy
0	Vernon Gholston (E)	6-4/260	So.	50	Detroit/Cass Technical
7	David Patterson (T)	6-3/285	Sr.	3L	Warrensville Heights, Ohio/Warrensville Heights
8	Joel Penton (T)	6-5/290	Sr.	3L	Van Wert, Ohio/Van Wert
0	Quinn Pitcock (T)	6-3/295	Sr.	3L 2L	Piqua, Ohio/Piqua Dublin, Ohio/Scioto
19	Jay Richardson (E) Ryan Williams (E)	6-6/276	Sr. Fr.	RS	Mission Viejo, Calif./Mission Viejo
7	Lawrence Wilson (E)	6-6/225	So.	1L	Akron, Ohio/St. Vincent-St. Mary
4	Doug Worthington (E)	6-7/250	Fr.	RS	Athol Springs, N.Y./Saint Francis
			1	INEBACK	RS
i	Mike D'Andrea	6-3/248	Sr.	3L	Avon Lake, Ohio/Avon Lake
	Marcus Freeman	6-2/230	So.	1L	Huber Heights, Ohio/Wayne
6	Chad Hoobler	6-3/240	Jr.	2L	Carrollton, Ohio/Carrollton
2	John Kerr	6-1/246	Sr.	1L	Strongsville, Ohio/Indiana University
33	James Laurinaitis	6-3/231	So.	1L	Hamel, Minn./Wayzata
19	Ryan Lukens	6-0/230	So.	SO 2L	Lebanon, Ohio/Archbishop Moeller Richmond, Va./Huguenot
6	Trever Robinson Austin Spitler	6-0/220	Jr. Fr.	RS	Bellbrook, Ohio/Bellbrook
5	Curtis Terry	6-2/220	Jr.	2L	Cleveland/Glenville
	- January 1911 J	- 4,440		ENSIVE E	
3	Andre Amos (CB)	6-1/180	Fr.	RS	Middletown, Ohio/Middletown
2	Malcolm Jenkins (CB)	6-1/180	So.	50	Piscataway, N.J./Piscataway
29	Shaun Lane (CB/RB)	5-10/180	So.	1L	Hubbard, Ohio/Hubbard
36	Curt Lukens (SS)	6-3/215	Jr.	11.	North Canton, Ohio/North Canton
8	Devon Lyons (FS)	6-4/214	Jr.	11.	North Braddock, Pa./Woodland Hills
32	Brandon Mitchell (FS)	6-3/205	Sr.	3L	Atlanta/Mays Cleveland/Glenville
35	Jamario O'Neal (SS) Nick Patterson (FS)	6-1/180 6-2/210	So.	1L 1L	St. Louis/Hazelwood Central
24	Mike Roberts (CB)	5-11/185	Sr.	SO	Toronto, Ontario/Central Tech
37	Anderson Russell (SS)	6-0/190	Fr.	RS	Atlanta/Marist
14	Antonio Smith (CB)	5-9/195	Sr.	2L	Columbus, Ohio/Beechcroft
	Brandon Underwood (CB)	6-2/170	So.	50	Hamilton, Ohio/Hamilton
	Donald Washington (CB)	6-1/185	Fr.	RS	Indianapolis/Franklin Central
19		6-0/185	Jr.	2L	Columbus, Ohio/Beechcroft
19	Sirjo Welch (CB)	0-0/103			
19 20 30	Sirjo Welch (CB)			SPECIALI	
19 20 30 58	Sirjo Welch (CB) Drew Norman (LS)	6-0/230	Sr.	1L	Dennison, Ohio/Indian Valley
19 20 30 58 20	Sirjo Welch (CB) Drew Norman (LS) Aaron Pettrey (K)	6-0/230 6-1/184	Sr. Fr.	1L RS	Dennison, Ohio/Indian Valley Raceland, Ky./Raceland-Worthington
19 20 30 58 20 85 62	Sirjo Welch (CB) Drew Norman (LS)	6-0/230	Sr.	1L	Dennison, Ohio/Indian Valley



on't worry, be happy, Hawkeyes fans.

Kirk Ferentz isn't going anywhere. But lowa is going somewhere. Maybe all the way to the top of the Big Ten—again.

That's right. The Hawkeyes could win the league title for the third time in the past five seasons. The offense is just a few proven receivers from being among the best in the Big Ten. The defense? There are questions at cornerback and linebacker. But Ferentz always has answers, doesn't he?

He has proved that since arriving in Iowa City in 1999 to inject life into a program that had gone stale under Hayden Fry.

lowa has its best collection of talent since Fry's halcyon days of the mid-1980s, when Chuck Long was passing in tall corn.

Drew Tate might be the best quarterback in the Big Ten. Albert Young finally might get respect as the league's best running back, and he'll work behind a strong line. A defensive line that took its lumps in 2005 looks primed to be one of the Big Ten's best.

What's it all mean? Dreams of Iowa's first Rose Bowl since the 1990 season aren't crazy.

Story: Tom Dienhart, Sporting News

Photo: RB Albert Young





Date	Opponent	What it means	TSN pick
Sept. 2	Montana	This isn't your ordinary I-AA team. But Iowa isn't your ordinary I-A team. Cue the fight song.	W
Sept. 9	at Syracuse	The environment will be hostile; the opponent won't. Still, the experience will be a benefit.	W
Sept. 16	Iowa State	Cy-Hawk Trophy is on the line. Win, be happy. Lose, be miserable. It's that simple.	W
Sept. 23	at Illinois	Time to send a message: lowa is a power. Fifty-or-so points should do the trick.	W
Sept. 30	Ohio State	Time to put up or shut up. Is Iowa the best team in the Big Ten?	L
Oct. 7	Purdue	A big win over a pesky foe would further distance lowa from Big Ten's middle class.	W
Oct. 14	at Indiana	Should lowa worry about looking ahead to the Wolverines? Nah. Time to clear the bench.	W
Oct. 21	at Michigan	This could be the defining game of Ferentz Era. Win, and officially pass Michigan in prestige.	L
Oct. 28	Northern Illinois	MAC teams usually are welcomed with open arms. But not this MAC team. An ugly win is OK.	W
Nov. 4	Northwestern	One word: payback. That's what lowa's thinking after last year's meltdown in Evanston.	W
Nov. 11	Wisconsin	Betcha Barry Alvarez gives a pep talk after lowa ruined his home finale in 2005. Be careful.	W
Nov. 18	at Minnesota	Floyd of Rosedale—and a really neato bowl—are on the line. Enough said.	W

Sept. 30
Oct. 7
Pr
Oct. 14
Oct. 21
Oct. 28
Nov. 4
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Nov. 18
Oct. 18
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Oct.

Any Big Ten title dreams are tied to building momentum with a 4-0 start. September might be the toughest month, but this basically is a two-game schedule: Ohio State at home and at Michigan. Fans have good reason to think the Hawkeyes will win every other game. Still, there are games that must not be taken lightly: Purdue, Wisconsin and at Minnesota.

-Comments and predictions by Sporting News

I don't see this team winning the Big Ten. Nope. I thought they were pretty lucky to end up with seven wins last year. When I watched them on tape and evaluated them, I didn't think they were any better than we were. Iowa's talent doesn't stack up with Michigan's and Ohio State's. ... QB **Drew Tate** didn't play as good as he did as

a sophomore. I just don't think their team was as good. Defensively, they certainly weren't as strong. In 2004, their defense created a lot of opportunities and gave Tate great field position. And he was an unknown who didn't have to shoulder the responsibilities. Last year, all

SCOUTING THE HAWKEYES

Views from a pro scout or an opposing coach

of a sudden, he became the man. And the defense wasn't as good. ... RB Albert Young wasn't better than (Minnesota's Laurence)

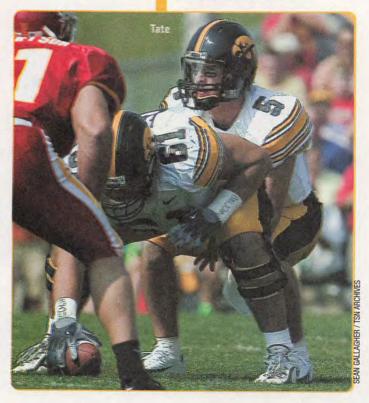
Maroney and (Wisconsin's Brian) Calhoun, but he's damn good. ... Against their offense, you always have to be cautious. They have big, physical receivers, and they run the ball well. Kirk Ferentz has that NFL background, and they take a lot of pride in the running game. You have to stop the running game if you're gonna have a chance against lowa. But if Tate is playing well, they're really hard to beat. I don't care what you stop because they'll capitalize on something else. ... They aren't a big scheme team on defense. Their line will be good. I rarely, if ever, see a guy out of position. The thing I admire most about lowa's defense: They are fundamentally very good. They don't mind going jaw-to-jaw with you. They think they can match up with anyone physically.

BLOG ALERT

'This is the league's best program not

named Ohio State. Want proof? The Hawkeyes could win the Big Ten for the third time in five seasons. Imagine what Ferentz would do if he had the same talent as Michigan. Scary. Take a bow, Kirk.'

For more of Tom Dienhart's take on Iowa, go to www.sportingnews.com



INSUE THE

Backfield Drew Tate will be lowa's first three-year starting quarterback since Matt Sherman (1995-97). And he has something to prove. Why? Tate tried to do too much last season, often forcing the action in hopes of making something happen. That lack of patience hurt him. But that's just the competitor in him. Tate has a live arm and fast release and operates in a quick fashion. He also has awareness in the pocket and can be slippery. When he scrambles, he looks to throw. That pressures defenses.

Backup Jason Manson's arm isn't as live as Tate's, but he has a lot of the same traits.

Albert Young got lost in the shadows of other great Big Ten backs last year. He'll get his due this fall. Young has vision and can catch and block, but he isn't scary fast. After suffering season-ending injuries in 2003 (broken leg) and '04 (knee), Young might not have been 100 percent last year. The best is yet to come.

Depth is solid, Damian Sims has emerged as the home run hitter. He's a great athlete who's cut from the same mold as ex-Hawkeye Fred Russell. Shonn Greene is the first big back Kirk Ferentz has had. Greene wants more work.

For all intents and purposes, fullback Tom

Busch is a glorified offensive lineman. But that's not a bad thing.

Receivers Ed

Hinkel and Clinton
Solomon are gone. Too
bad. Solomon was the
big-play threat, and
Hinkel was a go-to guy
who did many little
things that went
unnoticed. Plus, he
was a leader and fan
favorite.

Herb Grigsby and Calvin Davis are the top remaining options. Grigsby is an undersized guy who's the unit's best route-runner. Davis has size but has battled injuries. One of the two needs to emerge as a deep threat.

Jones

Andy Brodell is a raw player with speed and size who could surprise people. Eric McCollom

is a converted quarterback who has quickness and good hands. But he's still learning. Keep an eye on redshirt freshman Trey Stross, a high-energy player with size and passion. Manson is another wildcard. He worked at receiver in the spring, as coaches don't want to waste his athletic skills on the bench.

While the receivers develop, Tate might lean on the tight ends. And why not? Scott Chandler led lowa with 47 catches last year. His biggest challenge: blocking.
Still, Chandler is a big target (6-7) who can run. And everyone is jacked up about Tony Moeaki, who got thrown in the fire as a true freshman last year. It's just a matter of time before Moeaki

Line This could be one of the Big Ten's better fronts.

becomes a force.

The tackles look great. With Ben Gates gone, Dace Richardson figures to start on the left side after getting his feet wet as a true freshman last year. He's a big body who's becoming stronger and more refined.

Richardson could be a future star. Marshal Yanda is a big of farm boy with bull strength. He's the bellwether of the unit and an all-star candidate. This position could be even better if Lee Gray is granted a sixth year of eligibility after knee surgery scrubbed his '05 season.

The guards look solid. Mike Jones is on the left side. He first started midway through his true freshman season in '03 and has continued to improve. It all might come together for

him this year. Right guard Mike Elgin is a veteran hand who's quick on his feet and strong.

Center Brian Ferentz, Kirk's son, is gone. Redshirt freshman Rafael Eubanks won the job in the spring. Elgin also could slide over from right guard to take over a position he manned in '04.

PHILOSOPHY

This is a traditional, two-back offense that strives for balance. The formations vary and range from a one-back look to a two-tight end set. The staff uses the run to set up the pass in a complex scheme that features several NFL wrinkles. Remember: Kirk Ferentz is well-versed in the pro game. Expect the attack to lean on the experience at quarterback and running back. Still, lowa will take shots downfield.

PREMOTE PLAYER

Drew Tate is poised for a big season, but what receivers will he throw to with Ed Hinkel and Clinton Solomon gone? Enter **Herb Grigsby**. He grabbed 25 passes for 335 yards and three scores last year as a sophomore. Grigsby is a lithe target with speed who needs to make defenses respect the deep pass so the Hawkeyes' strong running game can take flight.

200	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
					197	Sr.
	WR	22	Calvin Davis	6-1	1000	
	14	80	Andy Brodell	6-3	193	So.
200	LT	78	Dace Richardson	6-6	306	So.
0 -		68	Andy Kuempel	6-7	295	Fr.
	LG	76	Mike Jones 🛦	6-5	302	Sr.
CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE		56	Rashad Dunn	6-3	290	So.
	C	52	Rafael Eubanks	6-3	288	Fr.
45/55		58	Rob Bruggeman	6-3	280	So.
111	RG	54	Mike Elgin 🛦	6-4	288	Sr.
		71	Seth Olsen	6-5	301	So.
	RT	73	Marshal Yanda A	6-4	305	Sr.
		79	Dan Doering	6-7	290	Fr.
	TE	87	Scott Chandler A	6-7	257	Sr.
1		81	Tony Moeaki	6-4	250	So.
	WR	4	Herb Grigsby	6-0	175	Jr.
_		7	Eric McCollom	6-0	190	Jr.
THE SECOND	QB	5	Drew Tate A	6-0	192	Sr.
		16	Jason Manson	6-1	195	Sr.
	RB	21	Albert Young A	5-10	209	Jr.
		28	Damian Sims	5-9	185	Jr.
	FB	35	Tom Busch	5-11	231	Jr.
		46	Champ Davis	6-2	238	Sr.
	K	1	Kyle Schlicher	5-9	184	Sr.
	KR	45	Shonn Greene	5-11	225	So.
		100	starters in bold *True fre	100		
V. 3			ospect			
	all. 11	r - pr	ospect		lin	



Line Youth was served last year, and it often got eaten. But Kirk Ferentz knew that was going to happen and thought the unit got better as the season progressed. Now, the Hawkeyes expect to reap the benefits of what could be a team strength.

The only key loss was end Mike Follett, but the staff likes its options on the flanks. The central figures are Kenny Iwebema and Bryan Mattison. Iwebema has big-play ability and is the most dangerous pass-rushing end. He led the team with seven sacks last year and notched 10 tackles for loss. Mattison is a coach's son who reminds some of former lowa star Aaron Kampman, meaning he's a relentless player who gets better as the game progresses. Alex Kanellis looks to continue growing after flashing potential as a true freshman last year.

The tackle duo of Matt Kroul and Mitch
King epitomizes lowa's philosophy that size
doesn't matter—heart does. King can get slippery and be disruptive with penetration, but he
has to guard against getting overpowered. Kroul
plays to the whistle—and then some. That
makes Ferentz smile. Ryan Bain is a roll-in-themud-type who displayed star potential as a true
freshman.

Linebackers No way lowa easily replaces
Abdul Hodge and Chad Greenway, who ranked
Nos. 1 and 2 in the Big Ten in solo tackles last
year. They also were a big reason the Hawkeyes
allowed the fewest rushing touchdowns in the
Big Ten (10) last season and had the top red
zone defense. Still, the staff has promising
options, though it'll take time to sort players
into the right spots and develop depth. More
than anything, lowa is concerned about replacing the leadership Greenway and Hodge provided; each started the past three seasons.

Mike Humpal is set to take over Greenway's weakside spot, and Mike Klinkenborg is penciled in as Hodge's replacement in the middle. Good luck, fellas. Humpal got playing time in four-linebacker sets last year. He might be the team's best tackler. Klinkenborg is a good athlete who has the size to stop the run.

Edmond Miles might have been out of posi-

tion starting on the outside last year and could move inside. Miles lacks height, but he is strong and explosive and can run.

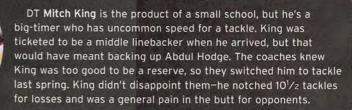
Zach Gabelmann, who excelled on special teams last year, gives the unit depth. Junior college transfer Bryon Gattas was on campus for spring ball. He's thick and tough. Keep an eye on true freshman Jeremiha Hunter, a speed demon who flies to the ball.

Secondary The hits keep coming here with the losses of four-year starting cornerbacks

PHILOSOPHY

How to describe it? Boring—but effective. Iowa doesn't give offenses many looks. In fact, it rarely blitzes or uses pressure packages. Zone coverages are the norm in the secondary. Still, aggressiveness is preached. Iowa lines up in a 4-3 set and looks to pound and out-execute teams. The Hawkeyes will let opponents nickel-and-dime them down the field, but they refuse to yield big plays.

BREAKO TPLAYER



Jovon Johnson and Antwan Allen. Johnson had a knack for making plays and led the team with 11 pass breakups. Allen was steady and reliable.

Charles Godfrey and Adam Shada are set to take over the corners. Both are bigger and faster than Johnson and Allen. The corners often are asked to cover without benefit of blitzes, so it's vital Godfrey and Shada hold up in space. And they must have a short memory if they yield a big play. Godfrey is a terrific athlete who could emerge as the top cover guy. He'll at least get that opportunity. Godfrey and Shada figure to be solid against the run.

Starting strong safety Miguel Merrick is coming off a good season. He's hard-nosed, intense and aggressive—traits any coach desires at the position. If Merrick gets a foe lined up, he'll drill him.

Free safety Marcus Paschal is the cornerstone of the secondary. He started at strong safety in 2004 but had knee surgery after the season and never seemed to be himself. The coaches hope he's raring to go. Paschal is knowledgeable and must be a leader.

6	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	E	92	Kenny Iwebema 🛦	6-4	270	Jr.
		96	Alex Kanellis	6-4	281	So.
	T	53	Matt Kroul	6-3	271	So.
		66	Ryan Bain	6-2	282	So.
	T	47	Mitch King	6-3	264	So.
		91	Vernon Jackson	6-1	265	Fr.
1	E	99	Bryan Mattison	6-3	272	Jr.
		64	Justin Collins	6-2	250	Fr.
ELI	OLB	27	Edmond Miles A	6-1	228	Sr.
		41	Bryon Gattas	6-1	232	Jr.
	MLB	40	Mike Klinkenborg	6-2	240	Jr.
		51	Zach Gabelmann	6-1	233	Sr.
	WLB	44	Mike Humpal	6-2	232	Jr.
1		43	Pat Angerer	6-1	222	Fr.
	LCB	19	Adam Shada	6-1	185	Jr.
		3	Ma'Quan Dawkins	5-9	166	Sr.
No. of Lot	SS	15	Miguel Merrick A	6-0	203	Sr.
NAME OF	700	14	Devan Moylan	5-10	201	Sr.
3	FS	25	Marcus Paschal A	6-0	207	Sr.
		11	Marcus Wilson	6-3	198	Fr.
	RCB	13	Charles Godfrey	6-1	208	Jr.
		29	Bradley Fletcher	6-2	195	So.
	P	6	Andy Fenstermaker	6-3	225	Sr.
26	PR	4	Herb Grigsby	6-0	175	Jr.
			starters in bold *True f	reshman		

2-MINUTE DRILL WITH TE SCOTT CHANDLER

The best thing about Iowa City: It's not right in the middle of a big city, but it's not rural, either. Everyone loves the Hawkeyes; it all revolves around the campus. It can be the worst part, too, because you're always under the microscope.

The team's best trash talker: It's got to be one of the defensive backs. I'll go with Miguel Merrick. He doesn't usually come up with anything good, but he always seems to be talking. I'll give him the benefit of the doubt.



My least favorite opposing stadium:

Definitely Ohio State. We've gone there twice since I got here, and they gave it to us pretty good both times.

The team's most intense player: I'd say it's Drew Tate. He's a warrior out there.

My favorite moment as a college player: The last play of the Capital

One Bowl. Just to be on the field for one of the biggest moments in Iowa football history was great. And the Ohio State game my sophomore year, I scored my first touchdown, and we put it on 'em pretty good. That was a big game for the team and for me personally.

QUICK HITS

Where they play

Stadium: Kinnick (grass, 70,585) Site: Iowa City, Iowa

Tickets: 800-424-2957

What they run

Offensive scheme: Multiple Defensive scheme: 4-3

The last time

They won a league title: 2004 (tie) They didn't play in a bowl: 2000

Coaching staff

Head coach: Kirk Ferentz (49-36, 7 years; 17th at school; 61-57 overall, 10 years)

Offensive coordinator/quarterbacks: Ken O'Keefe (8th year)

Defensive coordinator/linebackers: Norm Parker (8th year)

Defensive line: Ron Aiken (8th year) Recievers/special teams: Lester Erb (7th year)

Running backs: Carl Jackson (8th year, 21st at school)

Tight ends/recruiting coordinator: Eric Johnson (4th year, 8th at school) Offensive line: Reese Morgan (4th year, 7th at school)

Defensive backs: Phil Parker (8th year) Linebackers/special teams:

Darrell Wilson (5th year)



COACHING

This might be the best staff in the Big Ten.
The secret to its success? Stability. In fact, there have been just four staff changes in Kirk Ferentz's seven years in lowa City, and none after last season. Ferentz credits the university with helping him maintain all-important continuity.

Coordinator Norm Parker is one of the most respected defensive minds in the Big Ten. He's a wily veteran who has overcome personal problems to excel.

Defensive line coach Ron Aiken is one of the best in the business, winning assistant coach of the year honors from the AFCA in 2002.

Running backs coach Carl

Jackson is another sage hand who enters his

21st season in Iowa City. He has helped develop players such as Ronnie Harmon, Nick Bell. Fred Russell and Ladell Betts.

But it all begins with Ferentz. He characterizes his style as low-key. Of course, if the Hawkeyes lose, Ferentz is accused of not being emotional enough. But he doesn't lose much and is considered by many to be the best coach in the Big Ten. Time and again, rumors fly that he's headed to the NFL. And time and again, Ferentz remains a Hawkeye. He begins his 17th season in lowa City as an assistant or head coach and is coming off the school's most successful four-year run in which lowa went 38-12 with four bowls and two conference titles.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Kyle Schlicher is back for his third year on the job. He has a strong leg, confidence and has made big kicks. He led the Big Ten with an 81 percent (17-of-21) success rate on field goals, including 12-of-16 from 30 and beyond.

Punter Andy Fenstermaker has a strong leg but needs to refine his placement and hang time

Kickoff returns have been troublesome, primarily because of injuries to key personnel at running back and receiver. Jovon Johnson is gone after leading the Big Ten in punt returns (17.4). There's no shortage of candidates for both jobs.

No Big Ten team covered kickoffs better last year. That commitment must continue.



Ferentz

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

National rank 40 Conference rank 6

Name	Pos.	Ht./wt.	Hometown/school
	1 1 1 1 1 1		

	**** Amo	ong the natio	on's top 30 prospects
None			
	*** Amon	g the nation	n's top 200 prospects
Adrian Clayborn	DE	6-3/250	St. Louis/Webster Groves
Jeremiha Hunter	LB '	6-2/217	York, Pa./Harrisburg Science and Technolog
	*** Among	the nation'	's top 500 prospects
Anthony Bowman	WR	5-11/165	Detroit/St. Mary's
James Claveland	wo	r shor	Davidson Tour VD-1 - 1 F 1

James Cleveland	WR	6-1/185	Baytown, Texas/Robert E. Lee
Dominique Douglas	WR	6-1/186	Detroit/Murray-Wright
A.J. Edds	TE	6-4/224	Greenwood, Ind./Greenwood Community
Bryon Gattas	LB	6-1/232	Mt. Prospect, III./Harper J.C. (III.)
Arvell Nelson	QB	6-4/175	Cleveland/Glenville
Richard Stanzi	QB	6-4/200	Mentor, Ohio/Lake Catholic
Jeff Tarpinian	DB	6-3/205	Omaha, Neb./Millard North
	**	Solid Divisio	on I prospects
Paul Chaney	WR	5-9/160	St. Louis/Saint Louis University
Ryan Donahue	P/K	6-3/180	Evergreen Park, III./St. Rita
Troy Johnson	LB	6-2/215	Lakeland, Fla./Lakeland
Karl Klug	DE	6-4/220	Caledonia, Minn./Caledonia
Brett Morse	LB	6-3/220	Willowbrook, III./Hinsdale Central
Derrick Smith	DB	6-0/195	Cleveland/Glenville
Amari Spievey	DB	6-0/175	Middletown, Conn./Xavier
Lance Tillison	DB	6-2/205	Seffner, Fla./Armwood

Biggest get: DE Adrian
Clayborn was the No. 2 player in
Missouri and the top player from
St. Louis. He has a great first
step, and he has the strength to
play quickly. The Hawkeyes
scored a major recruiting
victory over Nebraska
and Missouri, among
others.

Biggest miss:

DE Braylon Broughton
(Dallas/Hillcrest) was set to
head to lowa City until Arizona
came calling. Shortly after
visiting Tucson, Broughton fell in
love with Arizona. The Hawkeyes
also lost CB Jay Valai (Euless,
Texas/Colleyville Heritage) down
the stretch when he switched to
Wisconsin.

Instant impact: LB Jeremiha
Hunter is a monster recruit who
should help bolster a depleted
defense this fall. Junior college
LB Bryon Gattas also could play
soon after rebuffing offers from
Kansas and Michigan State,
among others.

Diamond in the rough: QB Richard Stanzi probably was MAC-bound before he had a senior season to remember after breaking numerous school records. That made him a hot commodity among several Big Ten teams. Stanzi picked lowa after coach Kirk Ferentz told him he had a shot to win the starting job after redshirting.

> Battleground: Iowa State won most of the in-state wars, with the Cyclones claiming the top two players in the state: QB Austen Arnaud (Ames, Iowa/Ames) and OL Matt Hulbert (Ankeny/

Ankeny). But the Hawkeyes didn't offer many of the state's top players. Losing Broughton and Valai stung because lowa discovered them in Texas. But the Hawkeyes scored their share of recruiting victories, including TE A.J. Edds from Purdue.

Fun facts: WR James
Cleveland is from the same
school that produced QB Drew
Tate. Cleveland was coached by
Tate's stepfather, Dick Olin. ...
QB Arvell Nelson is one of 11
players from his school to sign
Division I-A letters-of-intent this
year. ... K Ryan Donahue took
part in the U.S. Army AIIAmerican game. ... DB Jeff
Tarpinian was Gatorade Player of
the Year in his state.

-Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

RETURNING LEADERS

RUSHING		Att.	Y	ds.	Avg.	TD	
Albert Young		249	1,3	34	5.4	8	
Damian Sims		30	2	96	9.9	4	
Shonn Greene		37	. 1	73	4.7	1	
PASSING	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.	
Drew Tate	219	352	62.2	2,828	22.	7	
RECEIVING		Rec	.)	ds.	Avg.	TD	
Scott Chandler		47		552	11.7	2	
Herb Grigsby		25		335	13.4	3	
Albert Young		24		244	10.2	0	
KICK/PUNT F	RETURNS	1	Vo.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	
Damian Sims			12	241	20.1	0	
Albert Young			12	182	15.2	0	
KICKING		XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.	
Kyle Schlicher		43	44	17	21	94	
TACKLES	Solo	Assist	s 1	Total	TFL/	Yds.	
Edmond Miles	37	31		68	9/	23	
Marcus Paschal	38	24		62	0.	5/1	
Mitch King	36	24		60	10.5/	28	
Miguel Merrick	38	21		59	2	2/3	
Matt Kroul	24	24		48	4.5	5/9	
Kenny Iwebema	32	16		48	10,	/51	
Sacks: Iwehem:	a (7)						

Sacks: Iwebema (7) Interceptions: Adam Shada (3)

KEY LOSSES

Offense C Brian Ferentz; T Ben Gates; WR Ed Hinkel (40 rec., 518 yards, 7 TDs); WR Matt Melloy (8 rec., 103 yards); WR Clinton Solomon (46 rec., 800 yards, 7 TDs).

Defense CB Antwan Allen (60 tackles); E Mike Follett (32 tackles, 3 sacks); LB Chad Greenway (156 tackles, 10 tackles for loss); LB Abdul Hodge (team-high 158 tackles, team-high 11 tackles for loss); CB Jovon Johnson (67 tackles, 3 int; 13 punt returns, 17.4 avg.).

2005 TEAM STATISTICS

	Average	Rank
Rushing offense	174.7	7th Big Ten/35th nation
Rushing defense	126.0	3rd/29th
Passing offense	257.8	3rd/27th
Passing defense	256.7	8th/96th
Total offense	432.4	4th/22nd
Total defense	382.7	4th/67th
Turnover differential	-1	T6th/T59th

2005 RESULTS (7-5, 5-3/T3rd Big Ten)

Ball State	W, 56-0	Michigan	L, 23-20 (OT)
at Iowa State	L, 23-3	at Northwestern	L, 28-27
Northern Iowa	W, 45-21	at Wisconsin	W, 20-10
at Ohio State	L, 31-6	Minnesota	W, 52-28
Illinois	W, 35-7	Florida*	L, 31-24
at Purdue	W, 34-17	*Outback Bowl	
Indiana	W, 38-21		

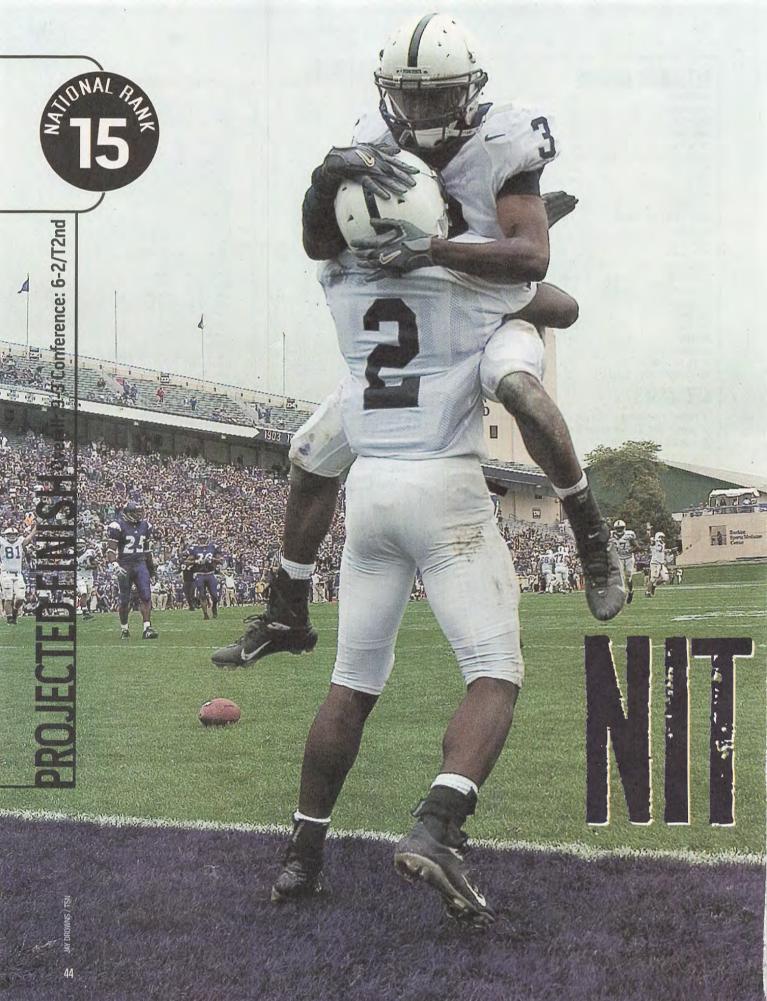
TRACKING THE WINS

TIMONINO	1111	- 11	111	J				Bowl victory
0 1 2 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 11	12 13
05 Outback		1	1	1	4	1	1 1	
04 Capital One*		Ţ.	1		ŧ			
03 Outback*		-		1	1			
02 Orange		1	-	1	1	1		
O1 Alamo*		1	1		-	-		
						43		

HAWKEYES ROSTER

40	. Name	Ht./Wt.	CI.	Exp. ARTERB	And the first term of the second of the seco
	Jake Christensen	6-1/205	Fr.	RS	Lockport, III./Lockport
6	Jason Manson	6-1/195	Sr.	11.	Bloomfield, Conn./Bloomfield
	Drew Tate	6-0/192	Sr.	3L	Baytown, Texas/Robert E. Lee
				NNING B	
16	Kalvin Bailey	6-0/240	Fr.	RS	Tampa/Armwood
8	Dana Brown	5-10/203	Fr.	RS	Clairton, Pa./Clairton
18	Sam Brownlee Tom Busch (FB)	5-10/200 5-11/231	Sr. Jr.	2L 2L	Emmetsburg, Iowa/Emmetsburg Cottage Grove, Minn./Park
16	Champ Davis (FB)	6-2/238	Sr.	3L	Plano, Texas/West
15	Shonn Greene	5-11/225	So.	1L	Sicklerville, N.J./Milford Academy
37	Gavin McGrath (FB)	6-2/231	So.	SO	Cedar Rapids, Iowa/Washington
31	Corey Robertson	6-1/222	Fr.	RS	Denison, Texas/Denison
28	Damian Sims	5-9/185	Jr.	2L	Boynton Beach, Fla./John I Leonard
21	Albert Young	5-10/209	Jr.	1L	Moorestown, N.J./Moorestown
	T. (- D) (TT)				GHT ENDS
8	Tyler Blum (TE)	6-6/260	Fr.	RS 1L	Walnut, Iowa/Walnut Community
80 87	Andy Brodell Scott Chandler (TE)	6-3/193 6-7/257	So. Sr.	3L	Ankeny, Iowa/Ankeny Southlake, Texas/Carroll
32	Kennon Christian	6-2/209	Jr.	2L	Davenport, Iowa/North
7	Lucas Cox (TE)	6-4/247	So.	50	Springdale, Pa./Springdale
2	Calvin Davis	6-1/197	Sr.	3L	Iowa City/City High
	Herb Grigsby	6-0/175	Jr.	1L	Mayflower, Ark./Mayflower
30	Ryan Majerus (TE)	6-3/245	Sr.	3L	Oelwein, Iowa/Oelwein
7	Eric McCollom	6-0/190	Jr.	50	Camden, S.C./Camden
31	Tony Moeaki (TE)	6-4/250	So.	1L	Wheaton, III./Warrenville South
33	Brandon Myers (TE)	6-4/242	So.	11	Prairie City, Iowa/Prairie City-Monroe
35	Michael Sabers (TE)	6-5/240	So.	50	lowa City/City
36	Trey Stross	6-3/190	Fr.	RS	Avon Lake, Ohio/Avon Lake
2	Woolou Assablisses	6-0/21F		NSIVE L	
5	Wesley Aeschliman Nyere Aumaitre	6-8/315	So.	50	Bloomfield, Iowa/Davis County Camden, N.J./Woodrow Wilson
15	Ted Bentler (G)	6-5/295 6-4/276	So.	20	Davenport, Iowa/Assumption
58	Rob Bruggeman (C)	6-3/280	So.	. 20	Cedar Rapids, Iowa/Washington
0	Kyle Calloway	6-7/295	Fr.	RS	Belleville, III./East
9	Dan Doering (T)	6-7/290	Fr.	RS	Barrington, III/Barrington
6	Rashad Dunn (G)	6-3/290	So.	SO	Evans, Ga./Greenbrier
54	Mike Elgin (C)	6-4/288	Sr.	2L	Bankston, Iowa/Western Dubuque
52	Rafael Eubanks	6-3/288	Fr.	RS	St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall
70	Lee Gray (T)	6-6/320	Sr.	1L	Dallas/Bishop Dunne
77	Clint Huntrods	6-5/270	Sr.	1L	Collins, Iowa/CMB
76	Mike Jones (G)	6-5/302	Sr.	3L	Chicago Ridge, III./Richards
68	Andy Kuempel (T)	6-7/295	Fr.	RS	Marion, Iowa/Linn-Mar
12	Anton Narinskiy	6-4/260	So.	50	Chagrin Falls, Ohio/Kenston
71	Seth Olsen (G)	6-5/301	So.	1L	Omaha, Neb./Millard North
72	Andrew Payton	6-5/290	So.	SO	Waterloo, lowa/West
78 73	Dace Richardson (T) Marshal Yanda (T)	6-6/306	So. Sr.	1L 1L	Wheaton, III./Warrenville South Anamosa, Iowa/Anamosa
3	marshar randa (1)	0 4/303		NSIVE L	
66	Ryan Bain (T)	6-2/282	So.	1L	Bolingbrook, III./Bolingbrook
64	Justin Collins (E)	6-2/250	Fr.	RS	Ft. Worth, Texas/Brewer
93	Ettore Ewen	6-0/275	So.	SO	Tampa/Wharton
92	Kenny Iwebema (E)	6-4/270	Jr.	2L	Arlington, Texas/Bowie
91	Vernon Jackson (T)	6-1/265	Fr.	RS	Orlando/Evans
96	Alex Kanellis (E)	6-4/281	So.	1L	Iowa City/West
47	Mitch King (T)	6-3/264	So.	1L	Burlington, Iowa/Burlington
53	Matt Kroul (T)	6-3/271	So.	1L	Mount Vernon, Iowa/Mount Vernon
99	Bryan Mattison (E)	6-3/272	Jr.	2L	Mishawaka, Ind./Penn
90	Grant McCracken (E)	6-3/245	So.	50	Ankeny, Iowa/Ankeny
55	Alex Willcox	6-2/280	Jr.	2L	West Des Moines, Iowa/Valley
12	Pat Angerer	6.1/222		INEBACE	
13	Pat Angerer Chris Brevi	6-1/222 6-2/232	Fr. Jr.	RS 1L	Bettendorf, Iowa/Bettendorf Tampa/Armwood
39 51	Zach Gabelmann	6-1/233	Sr.	3L	Bettendorf, Iowa/Bettendorf
44	Mike Humpal	6-2/232	Jr.	1L	New Hampton, Iowa/New Hampton
40	Mike Klinkenborg	6-2/240	Jr.	2L	Rock Rapids, Iowa/Central Lyon
17	Chris Kuehl	6-2/230	Jr.	50	Rock Rapids, Iowa/Central Lyon
38	Jordan McLaughlin	6-0/227	So.	SO	Belmond, Iowa/Belmond-Klemme
27	Edmond Miles	6-1/228	Sr.	3L	Tallahassee, Fla./Godby
57	B.J. Travers	6-1/235	Fr.	RS	Westlake, Ohio/Westlake
	Water was	return.		ENSIVE	
2	Harold Dalton	6-1/192	So.	SO	Camden, N.J./Woodrow Wilson
3	Ma'Quan Dawkins (CB)	5-9/166	Sr.	3L	Bridgeton, N.J./Bridgeton
0	Justin Edwards	6-1/165	Fr.	RS	Garland, Texas/Naaman Forest
29	Bradley Fletcher (CB)	6-2/195	So.	1L 2L	Youngstown, Ohio/Liberty
13	Charles Godfrey (CB)	6-1/208	Jr. Sr.	3L	Baytown, Texas/Robert E. Lee
15 14	Miguel Merrick (SS) Devan Moylan (SS)	6-0/203 5-10/201	Sr.	2L	Union City, N.J./Emerson Panora, Iowa/Iowa Central C.C.
25	Marcus Paschal (FS)	6-0/207	Sr.	3L	Largo, Fla./Largo
34	Chris Rowell	6-1/187	Fr.	RS	Warrensville Heights, Ohio/Warrensville
19	Adam Shada (CB)	6-1/185	Jr.	2L	Omaha, Neb./Millard North
11	Marcus Wilson (FS)	6-3/198	Fr.	RS	Pennsauken, N.J./Camden Catholic
	(14)			SPECIAL	
6	Andy Fenstermaker (P)	6-3/225	Sr.	1L	Mt. Pleasant, Iowa/Mt. Pleasant
65	Daniel Olszta (LS)	5-11/222	Jr.	1L	New Lenox, III./Providence Catholic
1	Kyle Schlicher (K)	5-9/184	Sr.	2L	Ankeny, Iowa/Ankeny

Key: L-letters won; RS-redshirt; SO-squad; TR-transfer. 2006 recruits listed on page 42.



he checkerboard and shuffleboard court will have to wait. Joe Paterno has a team to coach. And maybe another championship to win. Everyone trumpeted the Nittany Lions' glorious rebirth last season. It was the feel-good story of the year. Let's all give JoePa another hug. Turns out this old dog never lost his tricks. Now, he has one tricked-out program.

Behind a strong defense, opportunistic offense and one age-defying coach, Penn State won its first Big Ten title since 1994. Not bad for a coach whose team had been to one bowl the previous five seasons. Don't look now, but things could just be getting good—again—for a program that's stockpiling talent. Still, there's work to do. Paterno's first move: finding a quarterback to replace Michael Robinson, a magician whose leadership and toughness willed Penn State to several victories last year. And on defense, the line and secondary must be rebuilt.

At the least, this is a solid bowl team. But there's potential for more. Even another Big Ten championship.

Story: Tom Dienhart, Sporting News
Photo: WRs Deon Butler (3), Derrick Williams (2)



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Date	Opponent	What it means	TSN pick
Sept. 2	Akron	Penn State will see if its rebuilt secondary is up to the task vs. Luke Getsy's zippy arm.	W
Sept. 9	at Notre Dame	Both programs were reborn last year. Which one will take the next step? Let the hype begin.	L
Sept. 16	Youngstown State	Nittany Lions deserve this patsy wedged between two uber-tough road games.	W
Sept. 23	at Ohio State	Matchup of last year's co-Big Ten champs. Whose retooled defense will develop the quickest?	L
Sept. 30	Northwestern	Last chance to make sure the pass defense is up to Big Ten standards.	W
Oct. 7	at Minnesota	Classic look-ahead game with a visit from the Wolverines next week. Heed the warning.	W
Oct. 14	Michigan	Win would rubber-stamp the Nits' return to glory—and be sweet revenge for last year.	W
Oct. 21	Illinois	Biggest challenge? Getting motivated to play a team you hung 56 on by halftime last year.	W
Oct. 28	at Purdue	Start of a dangerous two-game trip. Nits lost the last time in West Lafayette.	W
Nov. 4	at Wisconsin	Win here could mean the difference between a New Year's Day bowl and Nowheresville bowl.	L
Nov. 11	Temple	Time to catch your breath, JoePa: Penn State is 31-3-1 vs. the Owls. Hoot! Hoot!	W
Nov. 18	Michigan State	Land Grant Trophy is at stake. Yeah, who cares? It's senior day. Let the good times roll.	W

Talk about your challenging early schedules: at Notre Dame and at Ohio State before the season is even potty trained. At least there's no game with Iowa (again). Consecutive trips to Purdue and Wisconsin figure to define Penn State's Big Ten hopes. Both games are winnable—and oh-so losable. Sweep 'em, and this might be a special season for JoePa.

-Comments and predictions by Sporting News

A little bird tells us they have a quarterback who didn't play last year who's another Michael Robinson. We hear he's gonna start over Anthony Morelli. ... WR Derrick Williams is the real deal. They have a couple guys who are way too fast. They should get them out of the league. They are too fast to play in the Big Ten. They've upgraded their speed, and they have playmakers. It worries you. ... I don't see Joe Paterno changing much on offense. I think they'll keep running the ball. I like their running backs. I think they're physical guys. They aren't take-it-to-the-house guys, but they are run-you-over guys. You

SCOUTING THE NITTANY LIONS

Views from a pro scout or an opposing coach

get close to the goal line, and they are really hard to stop. They run with a low pad level and will knock you into tomorrow. They are physical, the kind of backs Joe likes. ... The offensive line has gotten better. T Levi Brown is good.

He's an NFL guy. ... Not sure what they'll do up front on defense. You just have to assume it's Penn State, and as a result, they've recruited some good players who have waited their turn. ... They don't gamble much, but if they think they can get to you with a blitz, they'll do it. They'll try pressure to see if pressure will get to you. ... They may have had the best secondary I've ever seen in the league last year. ... LB Paul Posluszny didn't have that great of a game against us, but apparently he's pretty good. They brag on him and compare him to some of their past greats, and that says a lot at that place. But Posluszny isn't even close to being as good as (former Ohio State LB) A.J. Hawk. Posluszny is a good player, but I marveled over Hawk. ... I don't have a problem with Paterno winning the coach of the year awards. What's amazing is he didn't get fired before last year. Almost any other coach in his position would have been fired.

BLOG ALERT

'Blue-chip recruits ... Big Ten title

... an adoring nation. It's good to be JoePa. No team has more momentum. And no team will have a more difficult time feeding the beast. Good luck, JoePa. But you don't need it. You proved that last season.' For more of Tom Dienhart's take on Penn State, go to www.sportingnews.com



Y DROWNS / TS

INSIDE THE

Backfield Michael Robinson's play at quarterback never looked that pretty, but last year the guy led Penn State to its first Big Ten title since 1994 and won league MVP honors. His leadership, toughness and ability to make something out of nothing were hallmarks. Now, Robinson is gone. Gulp.

In steps Anthony Morelli, who played in spots the past two seasons. He has a strong arm and figures to be more accurate than Robinson was. But Morelli must learn to read defenses. He is a decent athlete, but he lacks the footloose-and-fancy-free wizardry that made Robinson special.

Things could get interesting if Morelli gets hurt—or flops. Paul Cianciolo has been around, but many think Daryll Clark is the second-best option and eventually could win the job. A redshirt freshman, Clark reminds many of Robinson. Hmmm.

Running backs Tony Hunt and Austin Scott provide plenty of power—but not a lot of giddy-up. Hunt neither shakes nor bakes. He just lowers his head and hits the hole hard.

Hunt

Scott showed how effective he can be in the Orange Bowl, when he filled in for the injured Hunt and ran for 110 yards and two touchdowns. Scott injured a knee in the spring but is expected to be healthy. Stumpy Rodney Kinlaw is a speedy reserve.

BranDon Snow rates as one of the nation's top fullbacks. The best thing about Snow? He knows his role—to block—and he's good at it.

Receivers This is a young and exciting group that is long on speed and short on size. Morelli is a more accurate passer than Robinson, which will help maximize the vast potential of this unit and improve what was the Big Ten's 10th-ranked passing game.

Derrick Williams showed why he widely

was considered the nation's top 2005 recruit. He's mature, can catch and is tough.

Deon Butler is back to reprise his role as a big-play threat after leading the team with 37 receptions. Local product Jordan Norwood was a revelation last year after arriving as a walk-on. He has fantastic hands and can take a lick. Plus, Norwood runs great routes.

Mark Rubin missed last year with an ankle injury. He's a possession receiver who brings much-needed size. Redshirt freshman Kevin Cousins is a big target. Keep an eye on redshirt freshman James McDonald, who starred in the spring.

Patrick Hall could be the favorite to replace tight end Isaac Smolko. Jordan Lyons is another

possibility. Whoever it is doesn't figure to get many catches, given the talent at receiver.

Line Four starters are gone: center

E.Z. Smith, right tackle Andrew Richardson and guards Tyler Reed and Charles Rush. None were stars, but all got the job done.

Left tackle Levi Brown will be the anchor—and unquestioned star—of the unit. He considered turning pro but returned. Good thing. The massive but nimble Brown could develop into a first-round draft pick. John Shaw is a possibility at right tackle. He's a powerful blocker who knows the system. Chris Auletta and Gerald Cadogan also might be

in the mix.

The guard spot is muddled. Count on steady and strong Greg Harrison eventually manning one position. The other spot is a work in progress with several candidates challenging for playing time, including Patrick Weber and Robert Price.

The Lions might have struck gold by moving A.Q. Shipley from defensive tackle to center. He's a big, physical kid with quickness and tree-trunk arms.

PHILOSOPHY

Coordinator Galen Hall opened up this offense when he arrived in 2004. The thought of three- and four-receiver sets aren't blasphemy any longer. Hall wants to get the ball to the perimeter to take advantage of an array of talented receivers. But this still is Penn State, which means the power and purity of the running game will remain the backbone of the offense.

RRFARO J PLAYER

It was the kind of play that made you say: "Wow." With 51 seconds remaining at Northwestern, Penn State needed a big play to avoid defeat. Enter WR **Derrick Williams**, who caught a pass and raced 36 yards for the game-winning score. Williams had just begun to tap his tremendous blend of speed and athleticism before his season was ended by a broken arm at Michigan.

No. of Concession,						
450	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	WR	2	Derrick Williams A	6-0	201	So.
		4	Terrell Golden	6-2	215	Jr.
	LT	67	Levi Brown A	6-5	328	Sr.
		79	Chris Auletta	6-4	300	Jr.
	LG	76	Gerald Cadogan	6-5	311	So.
102		64	Rich Ohrnberger	6-2	296	So.
	C	57	A.Q. Shipley	6-1	297	So.
上小水管		60	Patrick Weber	6-1	271	Jr.
	RG	65	Robert Price	6-0	299	Sr.
12		58	Greg Harrison	6-3	290	So.
No.	RT	78	John Shaw	6-4	299	Jr.
		71	Mark Farris	6-5	282	Sr.
	TE	44	Patrick Hall	6-2	251	Sr.
		89	Jordan Lyons	6-4	249	So.
	WR	3	Deon Butler A	5-10	166	So.
_		24	Jordan Norwood	5-10	168	So.
	QB	14	Anthony Morelli A	6-4	220	Jr.
		15	Paul Cianciolo	6-4	222	So.
	RB	26	Tony Hunt A	6-1	230	Sr.
C.S.		33	Austin Scott 🛦	6-0	209	Sr.
	FB	30	BranDon Snow A	6-0	242	Sr.
		34	Matt Hahn	5-11	230	Jr.
15.00	K	23	Kevin Kelly A	5-6	173	So.
	KR	1	Justin King	5-11	179	So.
			starters in bold *True	freshman		

INSIDE THE

Line There's a lot to sort out with three of four starters gone from a unit that helped Penn State rank second in the Big Ten in sacks and stopping the run.

Priority 1 is finding a pass rusher to replace end Tamba Hali, who led the Big Ten with 11 sacks and 17 tackles for loss. End Matthew Rice also is gone. He was a solid contributor and was respected in the locker room. Jim Shaw will be in the mix at one end. He's big and physical but lacks quickness. Tyrell Sales is an intriguing prospect. He's a linebacker by trade but has shown a knack for stopping the run. Coaches could line him up at end, given the crowded situation at linebacker. Josh Gaines also will get a look. He's big enough to anchor against the run and athletic enough to rush the passer.

Inside, tackle Jay Alford needs to lead the way, especially with Scott Paxson gone. Alford is a big guy who's quick off the snap and an effective pass rusher. He's also physical and can clog the line to free linebackers, which has been Penn State's M.O. throughout the years.

Elijah Robinson has shown quickness and the ability to slip blocks. But don't forget about Ed Johnson. He started at tackle in '04 before getting booted from school for disciplinary reasons. He's back, and arguably was the team's best lineman two years ago.

Linebackers This is the best unit in the nation. In fact, the array of talent may have coaches often using a 3-4 scheme.

Former Nittany Lions linebacking great
Jack Ham calls Paul Posluszny the best linebacker ever at Penn State. Why? Because
Posluszny has more responsibilities than previous linebackers. Posluszny is a relentless
warrior on the outside and is as effective
against the pass as he is the run; he led the
team in tackles last season. The knee injury
Posluszny suffered in the Orange Bowl is the
only thing that kept the reigning Butkus and
Bednarik Award winner from turning pro. He is
ready to finish with a flurry.

Dan Connor is fast and tenacious at the other outside spot. Connor isn't as thick as Posluszny,

but he can shed blocks and make plays from sideline to sideline.

Insiders say middle linebacker Tim Shaw is the fastest of the group. He fills the hole and takes on blocks. And he's smart.

Depth is fantastic. Sales bolsters the unit, along with touted Dontey Brown and Sean Lee, who might be the best cover linebacker.

Secondary There's lots of work to do with four starters gone: free safety Chris Harrell, hero Calvin Lowry and cornerPHILOSOPHY

It's nothing too fancy for a unit that has carried the program in recent years. Penn State employs a 4-3 scheme that asks linemen to protect linebackers from blockers. Coordinator Tom Bradley is a master teacher and technician who excels at picking ideal down-and-distance situations to apply pressure. But a retooled secondary could take some teeth from the defense's ability to gamble.

BREAROUTPLAYER



CB Justin King was pulled in two directions last season, playing a little bit of offense and a little bit of defense. And why not? King's blend of athletic ability and quickness makes him one of the most dangerous players on the roster. Because there is much skill at receiver and the secondary is rebuilding, King will focus on defense this year. That focus should allow him to develop into a shutdown corner and become the linchpin of the secondary.

backs Alan Zemaitis and Anwar Phillips. Lowry made plays over the middle, and Zemaitis was the team's best corner and led the Big Ten with six picks. Harrell's ability to hit will be missed.

The replacements have experience—but not a lot of it—as they assume command of a unit that helped Penn State lead the Big Ten in pass efficiency defense. Expect growing pains.

This much is certain: Justin King will start at one corner. Tony Davis figures to start opposite him. Zemaitis says King is a natural who should benefit from focusing on defense after also getting time at receiver as a true freshman last season. Davis is shorter than King but is fast and learning to play the ball in the air. Don't count out touted incoming freshman A.J. Wallace. And Knowledge Timmons enjoyed a strong spring.

The safeties might not be as vulnerable as expected. Free safety Donnie Johnson has gotten a lot of playing time as a nickel back.

There are several options at hero, including Nolan McCready, Darien Hardy and Anthony Scirrotto, whom the coaches like. McCready's experience and knowledge of the system might give him an edge.

			A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR			
	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	E	99	Jim Shaw	6-3	264	Sr.
2318		87	Chris Rogers	6-2	257	So.
18658	T	13	Jay Alford A	6-3	288	Sr.
		53	Steve Roach	6-1	308	Sr.
	T	95	Elijah Robinson	6-2	287	So.
		92	Ed Johnson	6-1	290	Sr.
1	E	47	Josh Gaines	6-1	263	So.
		86	Mike Lucian	6-2	276	So.
	OLB	31	Paul Posluszny A	6-1	238	Sr.
		45	Sean Lee A	6-2	222	So.
N.	ILB	20	Tim Shaw 🛦	6-1	237	Sr.
Miles Miles		52	Dontey Brown	6-2	236	So.
	OLB	40	Dan Connor 🛦	6-3	225	Jr.
		46	Tyrell Sales	6-2	234	So.
	CB	11	Tony Davis	5-10	193	So.
		21	Knowledge Timmons	5-9	181	Fr.
98	FS	6	Donnie Johnson	5-11	209	Sr.
		37	Spencer Ridenhour	6-0	199	So.
	Hero	24	Nolan McCready	6-0	202	Sr.
		7	Anthony Scirrotto	6-0	192	So.
	CB	.1	Justin King 🔺	5-11	179	So.
17CL		25	Devin Fentress	5-9	175	So.
	P	36	Jeremy Kapinos 🛦	6-1	235	Sr.
1	PR	7	Anthony Scirrotto	6-0	192	So.
			starters in bold *True fres espect	hman		

2-MINUTE DRILL WITH LB PAUL POSLUSZNY

Bet you didn't know this about coach Joe Paterno: Every once in awhile, we'll be warming up before practice, and Coach Paterno will jump in and start doing push-ups with us. He's amazing.

My favorite school tradition: Riding in school buses through part of campus to the stadium on game day. There are fans lined up on both sides of every street, yelling and cheering for us.



My favorite opposing stadium: Wisconsin. Their fans are really into it, especially when they do "Jump Around."

The best thing about State College: It is the picture-perfect college town.

My favorite moment as a college player: When the clock was winding down at Michigan State last year, and the realization hit me that we had won the Big Ten championship.

One thing people might be surprised to know about me: I like skeet shooting.

QUICK HITS

Where they play

Stadium: Beaver (grass, 107,282) Site: State College, Pa. Tickets: 800-863-3336

What they run

Offensive scheme: Multiple Defensive scheme: Multiple

The last time

They won a league title: 2005 (tie) They didn't play in a bowl: 2004

Coaching staff

Head coach: Joe Paterno (354-177-3, 40 years; 56th at school) Offensive coordinator/running backs: Galen Hall (3rd year)

Defensive coordinator/cornerbacks:

Tom Bradley (7th year, 28th at school)

Guards and centers: Dick Anderson

(7th year, 29th at school)

Defensive line: Larry Johnson (7th year, 11th at school)

Offensive tackles/tight ends:
Bill Kennedy (7th year, 19th at school)
Wide receivers/recruiting coordinator:
Mike McQueary (3rd year, 7th at school)

Safeties: Brian Norwood (6th year) Quarterbacks: Jay Paterno (7th year, 12th at school)

Linebackers: Ron Vanderlinden (6th year)



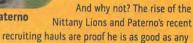
JAY DROWNS / TSN

COACHING

Name the coach of the year award, and Joe Paterno probably won it last year. His team's 2005 effort should put to rest any notion that JoePa has lost the golden touch. There's really nothing left for Paterno to accomplish, but he isn't going anywhere. His silly race for all-time

coaching wins with Bobby Bowden

is meaningless. More than anything, Paterno just loves to coach. Besides, he remembers that Bear Bryant died shortly after he retired. That, as much as anything, motives JoePa to keep blowing his whistle and chasing officials.



thirtysomething whippersnapper.

For the third year in a row, there were no staff changes. Staff stability always has been a secret to Paterno's success.

Offensive coordinator Galen Hall doesn't get enough credit. Perhaps his most important contribution: giving the offense a plan. Under Hall, Penn State runs plays to set up things later. That wasn't always the case before he arrived.

Many think defensive coordinator Tom Bradley might be next in line behind Paterno. Bradley is a long-time lieutenant who knows the "Penn State" way.

Receivers coach Mike McQueary is a rising star who is lauded for his recruiting skills.

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Jeremy Kapinos didn't boast a terrific average (41.3) last year, but he has a knack for dropping the ball inside the 20. Diminutive kicker Kevin Kelly has been a pleasant surprise; he hit 16 of 23 field-goal attempts as a true freshman. He showed moxie by kicking a gamewinning field goal in the third overtime of the Orange Bowl win over Florida State.

Figure on Anthony Scirrotto taking over punt return duties from Calvin Lowry. The coaches like Scirrotto's hands, plus he has experience. Derrick Williams and Justin King will form one of the nation's most deadly kickoff return duos.

Paterno has committed starters to these units after getting burned on special teams a few years ago. The results show.

RECRUITING 2006 CLASS

National rank 6 Conference rank 1

Name	Pos.	Ht./wt.	Hometown/school
*			on's top 30 prospects
A.J. Wallace	DB	6-1/195	Pomfret, Md./McDonough
*	*** Amoi	ng the nation	n's top 200 prospects
Chris Bell	WR	6-3/205	Norfolk, Va./Granby
Navorro Bowman	LB	6-0/218	Suitland, Md./Suitland
Brent Carter	RB.	6-3/205	Pottstown, Pa./Pottsgrove
Pat Devlin	QB	6-3/200	Exton, Pa./Dowington East
Lou Eliades	OL	6-4/286	Ocean, N.J./Ocean Township
Maurice Evans	DE	6-3/245	Middle Village, N.Y./Christ The King
Bani Gbadyu	LB	6-1/205	Gaithersburg, Md./Quince Orchard
Antonio Logan-El	OL	6-4/307	Forestville, Md./Forestville
Aaron Maybin	DE	6-3/211	Ellicot City, Md./Mt. Hebron
Tom McEowen	DT	6-4/279	Featersville, Pa./Neshaminy
Jared Odrick	DT	6-5/303	Lebanon, Pa./Lebanon
Andrew Quarless	TE	6-4/222	Uniondale, N.Y./Uniondale
Phillip Taylor	DT	6-3/346	Clinton, Md./Gwynn Park
J.B. Walton	OL	6-3/275	Indian Head, Md./Lackey
*	** Amon	the nation'	s top 500 prospects
Brett Brackett	QB	6-6/232	Lawrenceville, N.J./Lawrence
Cedric Jeffries	WR	6-1/185	Egg Harbor, N.J./Egg Harbor Township
Abe Koroma	DT	6-3/280	Takoma Park, Pa./Milton Hershey
Eric Latimore	DE	6-5/240	Middletown, Del./Middletown
Travis McBride	RB	6-0/188	McKeesport, Pa./McKeesport
Ollie Ogbu	DT	6-3/320	Milford, N.Y./Milford Academy
Evan Royster	RB	6-0/190	Chantilly, Va./Westfield
Iohnnie Troutman	DE	6-4/289	Browns Mills, N.J./Pemberton Township
	**	Solid Divisio	n I prospect
Doug Klopacz	OL .	6-2/249	Montvale, N.J./St. Joseph's Regional

Biggest get: Penn State came out of nowhere to land DB A.J. Wallace, the nation's No. 1 cornerback. He didn't list the Nittany Lions until late in the process but was blown away

by his visit and the recruiting efforts of assistant coach Larry Johnson. This marks the second year in a row Penn State signed the nation's top corner after it got Justin King last year.

Biggest miss: WR Vidal
Hazelton (New York/Hargrave
Military Academy, Va.) didn't sign
a letter of intent until 22 days
after signing day. Hazelton's
family wanted him to attend
Penn State, but the nation's No. 2
receiver had his heart set on
Southern California and signed
with the Trojans.

Instant impact: Wallace should be utilized like King (a little offense, a little defense) was last season. DLs Maurice Evans, Jared Odrick, Phillip Taylor and Tom McEowen all should get long looks because of major losses in the trenches.

Diamond in the rough: RB Evan Royster has answered all questions regarding a knee injury suffered after his junior year and has the size and quickness to win the starting job in a few years. QB Brett Brackett

has been overlooked because of the late signing of Pat Devlin, but Brackett might surprise people.

Battleground: Penn State did a great job in-state, but this class

was made by its efforts in Maryland. Going head-to-head with the Terrapins and many others for the top players in their neighboring state, the Nittany Lions dominated. They signed seven of the top 11 players from Maryland. Penn State snatched OL Antonio Logan-EI, and that really stung the Terps.

Fun facts: The Nittany Lions led the nation in big-time decommitments, stealing players from Miami, LSU, Virginia and Maryland. ... Penn State signed nine defensive linemen, tied with Auburn for the most among BCS schools. ... LB Bani Gbadyu was born in war-torn Liberia but fled the country as a child with relatives—but without his mother or father. —Mike Farrell, Rivals.com

RUSHING		Att.		Yds.	Avg.	TD
Tony Hunt		174	1,	047	6.0	6
Austin Scott		66		273	4.1	3
PASSING	Comp	Att.	Pc	t. Yds	TD	Int.
Anthony Morelli	13	20	65.0	155	1	0
RECEIVING		Rec		Yds.	Avg.	TD
Deon Butler		37		691	18.7	9
Jordan Norwood		32		422	13.2	0
Derrick Williams		22		289	13.1	1
KICK/PUNT RET	JRNS	1	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Derrick Williams			13	274	21.1	0
KICKING		XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Kevin Kelly		49	50	16	23	99
TACKLES	Solo	Assist	s	Total	TFL/	Yds.
Paul Posluszny	64	52		116	11/	38
Tim Shaw	43	33		76	6.5/	29
Dan Connor	38	38		76	5.5/	20

Interceptions: Tony Davis, Donnie Johnson, Nolan McCready, Anthony Scirrotto (1)

KEY LOSSES

Offense: C Lance Antolick; WR Ethan Kilmer (15 rec., 236 yards, 3 TDs); G Tyler Reed; T Andrew Richardson; OB Michael Robinson (162-of-311, 2,350 yards, 17 TDs, 10 int.; 163 att., 806 yards, 11 TDs); G Charles Rush; C E.Z. Smith; TE Isaac Smolko (13 rec., 192 yards).

Defense: E Tamba Hali (65 tackles, team-high 17 tackles for loss, team-high 11 sacks); S Chris Harrell (88 tackles, 3 tackles for loss); S Calvin Lowry (79 tackles, 4 int.; 32 punt returns, 10.6 avg.); T Scott Paxson (44 tackles, 10.5 tackles for loss, 3 sacks); CB Anwar Phillips (30 tackles); E Matthew Rice (55 tackles, 9 tackles for loss, 5 sacks); CB Alan Zemaitis (51 tackles, team-high 6 int.).

2005 TEAM STATISTICS

	Average	Rank
Rushing offense	212.8	2nd Big Ten/14th nation
Rushing defense	93.0	2nd/7th
Passing offense	208.8	10th/74th
Passing defense	211.7	4th/50th
Total offense	421.5	7th/33rd
Total defense	304.7	2nd/12th
Turnover differential	+3	5th/T46th

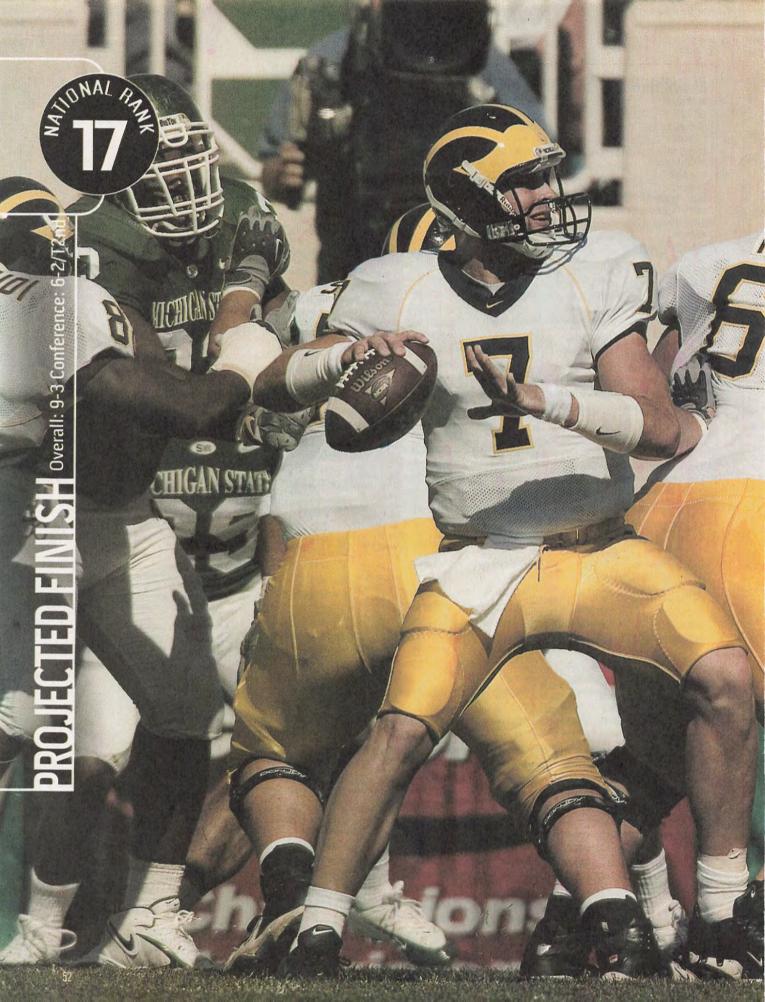
2005 RESULTS (11-1, 7-1/T1st Big Ten)

South Florida	W, 23-13	at Illinois	W, 63-10
Cincinnati	W, 42-24	Purdue	W, 33-15
Central Michigan	W, 40-3	Wisconsin	W, 35-14
at Northwestern	W, 34-29	at Michigan State	W, 31-22
Minnesota	W, 44-14	Florida State*	W, 26-23 (30T)
Ohio State	W, 17-10	*Orange Bowl	
at Michigan	L, 27-25		
The state of the s			



W	TANY LIONS I	ROSTE	R		
0.	Name	Ht./Wt.	CI.	Exp.	Hometown/previous school
	Paul Cianciolo	6-4/222	So.	SO	Charleston, S.C./Fort Dorchester
	Daryll Clark	6-2/224	Fr.	RS	Youngstown, Ohio/Ursuline
	Mike Hart	6-0/206	Jr.	SO	Westlake Village, Calif./Crespi
	Anthony Morelli	6-4/220	Jr. Fr.	1L RS	Pittsburgh/Penn Hills State College, Pa./State College Area
	Kevin Suhey	6-1/200		INING B	
	Matt Hahn (FB)	5-11/230	Jr.	2L	Dix Hills, N.Y./St. Anthony's
	Tony Hunt	6-1/230	Sr.	3L	Alexandria, Va./T.C. Williams
	Rodney Kinlaw	5-9/203	Jr.	50	Goose Creek, S.C./Stratford
	Dan Lawlor (FB)	6-2/241	So.	50	Mechanicsburg, Pa./Cumberland Valley
-	Nick Pinchek Austin Scott	6-0/197	Jr. Sr.	3L	Coplay, Pa./Parkland Allentown, Pa./Parkland
	BranDon Snow (FB)	6-0/242	Sr.	1L	Wilmington, Del./Newark
					HT ENDS
	Deon Butler	5-10/166	So.	11.	Woodbridge, Va/C.D. Hylton
	Francis Claude (TE)	6-5/252	Fr.	RS	Laval, Ouebec/Champlain Prep
_	Brennan Coakley (TE)	6-4/244	Fr.	RS RS	Newtown, Conn./Newton Richmond, Va./Huguenot
-	Kevin Cousins Kevin Darling (TE)	6-3/205 6-3/242	Sr.	SO	Springfield, Va./West Springfield
-	Terrell Golden	6-2/215	Jr.	2L	Norfolk, Va./Lake Taylor
	Patrick Hall (TE)	6-2/251	Sr.	2L	Canton, Ga./Sequoyah
	Jordan Lyons (TE)	6-4/249	So.	\$0	Atlanta/Woodward Academy
	James McDonald	6-2/189	Fr.	RS	Washington, D.C./Dunbar
	Jordan Norwood	5-10/168	So. Jr.	1L SO	State College, Pa./State College Area Altoona, Pa./Altoona Area
	Brendan Perretta Mark Rubin	5-7/180 6-2/213	So.	1L	Amherst, N.Y./Amherst
f	Mickey Shuler (TE)	6-4/234	Fr.	RS	Enola, Pa./East Pennsboro
	Derrick Williams	6-0/201	So.	SO	Greenbelt, Md./Eleanor Roosevelt
	J.R. Zwierzynski (TE)	6-2/239	Sr.	2L	Oswego, III./Joliet Catholic
		2.4655			INEMEN
	Chris Auletta (T)	6-4/300	Jr.	50	Massapequa Park, N.Y./St. Anthony's Mill Hall, Pa./Cumberland Valley
_	Wyatt Bowman (G) Levi Brown (T)	6-5/329 6-5/328	So. Sr.	3L	Norfolk, Va./Granby
-	Gerald Cadogan (G/T)	6-5/311	So.	50	Portsmouth, Ohio/Portsmouth
-	Mark Farris (G/T)	6-5/282	Sr.	SO	Pittsburgh/North Hills
	Greg Harrison (G)	6-3/290	So.	SO	Shenandoah, Pa./Shenandoah Valley
	Austin Hinton (G)	6-2/289	So.	50	Secaucus, N.J./Secaucus
	Dennis Landolt	6-4/291	Fr.	RS	Burlington, N.J./Holy Cross
_	Ross Muir (C)	6-3/273	So.	20	Noblesville, Ind./Noblesville East Meadow, N.Y./East Meadow
-	Rich Ohrnberger (G) Robert Price (G)	6-2/296	Sr.	50	Shaker Heights, Ohio/Shaker Heights
-	John Shaw (T)	6-4/299	Jr.	SQ	Spring Grove, Pa./Spring Grove
	A.O. Shipley (C)	6-1/297	So.	1L	Coraopolis, Pa./Moon Area
	Patrick Weber (C/G)	6-1/271	Jr.	SO	Arnold, Pa./Valley
	to Med C	c 0/000			INEMEN
	Jay Alford (T)	6-3/288	Sr.	3L	Orange, N.J./Orange
-	Richard Cheek (T) Josh Gaines (E)	6-1/292	Sr. So.	SO 1L	Philadelphia/Roxborough Ft. Wayne, Ind./Northrop
-	Jed Hill (E)	6-2/251	So.	SO	Struthers, Ohio/Struthers
-	Ed Johnson (T)	6-1/290	Sr.	2L	Detroit/Crockett Technical
	Lee Kuzemchak (T)	6-4/297	Sr.	SQ	Clymer, Pa./Penns Manor
	Mike Lucian (E)	6-2/276	So.	50	New Market, Md./Linganore
	Steve Roach (T)	6-1/308	Sr.	1L	Martinsburg, W.Va./Martinsburg
	Elijah Robinson (T)	6-2/287	So.	50	Camden, N.J./Woodrow Wilson
	Chris Rogers (E) Jim Shaw (E)	6-2/257 6-3/264	So.	1L	Wexford, Pa./North Allegheny Spring Grove, Pa./Spring Grove
	om onen (L)	5 5/1.54		NEBACI	
	Dontey Brown	6-2/236	So.	SO	McKeesport, Pa./McKeesport Area
	Joe Cianciolo	6-0/224	Sr.	1L	Charleston, S.C./Fort Dorchester
	Dan Connor	6-3/225	Jr.	2L	Wallingford, Pa./Strath Haven
	Jerome Hayes	6-0/236	Fr.	RS	Bayonne, N.J./Bayonne
	Andy Kubic Sean Lee	6-4/204	Sr. So.	2L 1L	Honolulu/St. Louis Pittsburgh/Upper St. Clair
	Paul Posluszny	6-1/238	Sr.	3L	Aliquippa, Pa./Hopewell
-	Tyrell Sales	6-2/234	So.	1L	Butler, Pa./Butler
-	Tim Shaw	6-1/237	Sr.	3L	Livonia, Mich./Clarenceville
		And I		ENSIVE	
	Tony Davis (CB)	5-10/193	So.	1L	Warren, Ohio/Howland
ļ	Devin Fentress (CB)	5-9/175	So.	50	Chesapeake, Va./Western Branch
	Jason Ganter (S) Darien Hardy (Hero)	6-0/195 5-10/202	Jr. Sr.	1L 2L	State College, Pa./State College Area Philadelphia/Northeast
	Willie Harriott (CB)	5-8/176	Fr.	RS	New Haven, Conn./Hyde Leadership
	Donnie Johnson (FS)	5-11/209	Sr.	3L	Cincinnati/North College Hill
	Justin King (CB)	5-11/179	So.	1L	Pittsburgh/Gateway
	Nolan McCready (Hero)	6-0/202	Sr.	2L	Wyomissing, Pa./Wyomissing Area
	Spencer Ridenhour (FS)	5-11/199	So.	1L	White Plains, N.Y./White Plains
	Lydell Sargeant (CB) Anthony Scirrotto (Hero)	5-9/176 6-0/192	So.	1L 1L	Lompoc, Calif./Cabrillo West Deptford, N.J./West Deptford
	Knowledge Timmons (CB)		Fr.	RS	York, Pa./William Penn
;	Brent Wise (CB)	5-11/187	Jr.	SO	Harrisburg, Pa./Central Dauphin
				SPECIAL	The state of the s
	Nick Daise (LS)	6-0/226	Sr.	SO	Camp Hill, Pa./Cumberland Valley
,	Jeremy Kapinos (P)	6-1/235	Sr.	3L	Springfield, Va./West Springfield
3	Kevin Kelly (K) Brandon Ream (P)	5-6/173	So.	1L	Langhorne, Pa./Neshaminy
9		6-2/201	Sr.	SO	Centre Hall, Pa./State College Area

MITTANY LIQUE DOCTED





ike he hasn't done enough. A national title, five Big Ten championships, a statesman for the college game. Yet there are some—fans and, yes, boosters—who aren't too thrilled with the state of Michigan under coach Lloyd Carr.

Here's a team that annually places among the nation's elite in the recruiting game, yet finished with at least three losses in seven of the past eight seasons—including, Holy Mother of Schembechler, a five-loss effort last year. Then there's this nagging—OK, sickening—1-4 record against Ohio State's Jim Tressel. It's enough to make you say Joe Must, err, Lloyd Must Leave.

Carr, who admittedly is in the twilight of his career as he enters the 12th season leading the Wolverines, has hit that point. He is an icon. He has done as much for Michigan as anyone in the program's storied history—including Bo and Bump and Fritz and even Hurry Up. He doesn't need some fancy-schmancy nickname to distinguish his career.

What he needs is one more big season. And the Wolverines just might get it this time.

Carr began this offseason by telling the team it was too fat and too slow. Teams that wear down are teams that lose games in the fourth quarter—something Michigan did in all five losses last year. Think about this: five losses by a combined 21 points, and all games that Michigan could've—and probably should've—won.

So the team ratcheted up offseason conditioning and focused on speed, stamina and finishing plays and games. The Wolverines return a strong, elite core from an explosive offense and a defense full of dynamic athletes (see: previous recruiting classes).

Two new coordinators and a new, slimmed-down philosophy could have this team playing for the Big Ten title in November—and maybe a whole lot more.

Story: Matt Hayes, Sporting News

Photo: QB Chad Henne

F DROWNS / TSN

Date	Opponent	What it means	TSN pick
Sept. 2	Vanderbilt	A chance to score one for the Big Ten vs. the SEC. But is this really an SEC team?	W
Sept. 9	Central Michigan	The goals: run the ball, get a big lead, play backups ASAP. Why? The Irish loom.	W
Sept. 16	at Notre Dame	Are these programs passing each other in the night? Call this a "statement" game.	L
Sept. 23	Wisconsin	Playing a physical team after a trip to South Bend isn't what the doctor ordered.	W
Sept. 30	at Minnesota	This is a chance to bring the Little Brown Jug home and to prove last year was a fluke.	W
Oct. 7	Michigan State	Playing a rival between road games is asking for trouble.	W
Oct. 14	at Penn State	Yet another "statement" game in a season filled with them.	L
Oct. 21	lowa	Will there be a Penn State hangover? Better not be against the fastest-rising Big Ten team.	W
Oct. 28	Northwestern	Start of a three-game stretch that must produce a 3-0 mark to keep Big Ten title hopes alive.	W
Nov. 4	Ball State	Time to fine-tune the Big Blue machine for the stretch drive.	W
Nov. 11	at Indiana	Will Michigan be on its game headed to Columbus off a second straight cakewalk?	W
Nov. 18	at Ohio State	It's the Buckeyes, and the Big Ten title might be on the line.	L

SCHEDULE STILLENGTH

There are potholes galore. The three biggies? At Notre Dame, at Penn State, at Ohio State. Even the best Michigan teams would struggle to sweep that trifecta. And this doesn't look like a vintage Michigan team. Circle October on your calender. That month will make or break the Wolverines. A game with Illinois sure would have been welcomed.

-Comments and predictions by Sporting News

BLOG ALERT

'Year in and year out, no Big Ten team

has more talent. Year in and year out, no Big Ten team is more disappointing. The common denominator:

coaching. Hmmm. Let's call this a make-or-break season for Lloyd Carr. He can handle it, right?"

For more of Tom Dienhart's take on Michigan, go to www.sportingnews.com

SCOUTING THE WOLVERINES

Views from a pro scout or an opposing coach

talent, but how productive was he? Mario Manningham is good, but I'm not ready to call him the next great one at Michigan. ... I thought we had

They aren't as good as they used to be. I don't think their players played as well

last year. They dodged some bullets and won a few games they could have lost.

with Mike Hart being hurt. They need to get him healthy. I like Hart a lot.

I think he's a special player. ... I don't think QB Chad Henne played as well.

I thought he had a sophomore slump. There probably are too great of

expectations placed on him. ... Honestly, they didn't have as strong a receiving corps. They had guys, but they weren't a "wow" group of guys. All of us would take **Steve Breaston**. He's a phenomenal

I'm not sure how they're gonna be this year. ... They had problems at running back

a great chance to beat them last year. I was really disappointed with that game. I just didn't think they were that good. There have been times when I've looked at Michigan on film and thought: We are gonna need divine intervention. Last year wasn't one of them. A couple years ago, playing Michigan was like playing a pro team. They didn't have a visible weakness in their program. ... The offensive line was just OK. I thought they were vulnerable last year. ... On defense, I thought they had guys we could block and guys we could throw it on. I thought their secondary was pretty good. But I didn't look at them and think we didn't have a chance. I didn't see any special players on defense. ... They aren't a real risk-taking bunch on defense. That's just their philosophy. ... You know, Bo Schembechler still sits up in that press box. He isn't coaching the team, but he has a lot of influence. I'm sure Bo makes his opinion known. I think legends are always difficult.



INSIDE THE CUE

PHILOSOPHY

Just because there's a new coordinator in town (Mike DeBord), don't think Michigan is going to get all wild and crazy with what it does. The Wolverines want to pound away with a big, physical offensive line and punishing tailbacks, then throw over the top with play action. It's as basic pro style as it gets. And when it's clicking, it's nearly impossible to stop.

Backfield Nowhere did Lloyd Carr's mandate of losing weight and gaining speed make more of an impact than here. Burly tailback Kevin Grady lost nearly 20 pounds and played so well in spring practice, he'll push Mike Hart for the starting job. Grady is quicker now and gives the team a big back who can grind and move the pile yet still supply a needed burst. Carr wants Grady in optimum shape because of Hart's history with injuries.

When he's healthy, Hart gives the offense balance and is one of the nation's premier players. If Grady and Hart are in top shape—Hart, too, has slimmed down to eliminate hamstring injuries—this team will run on anyone.

Then there's speedy freshman Carlos Brown, who played so well in the spring that Carr is talking about a backfield by committee. The emergence of fullback Obi Oluigbo, a bull of a blocker with surprisingly soft hands, gives the unit athleticism.

Carr has been pushing quarterback Chad Henne to take more control of the huddle and the team—and he did in the spring. Henne has too much ability and charisma to not make his presence felt. He has prototypical size and is a perfect fit for Michigan's prostyle offense, but he lacks escapability and holds the ball too long.

Receivers No one had a more disappointing season last year than Steve Breaston. But teammates say they've never seen him more focused and driven. Breaston never has been one to mix it up over the middle, preferring go and out routes. That all changed this spring, when he ran patterns with more precision and eagerly sought out blocks in the running game. His re-emergence could make this unit the best in the Big Ten.

Mario Manningham made a huge impact last season, saving Michigan numerous times when the rest of the unit simply didn't show up. Once he becomes more physical, he'll be the most complete receiver in the Big Ten.

This unit is deep with speed and inexperience. Redshirt freshman LaTerryal Savoy and Adrian Arrington make the unit four-deep. Both are physical and are deep threats but haven't played with consistency.

Coordinator Mike DeBord likes to use the tight end, and Tyler Ecker and Mike Massey give the unit the

RRIA OUTPLAYER

After RB Kevin Grady lost 20 pounds this offseason, Lloyd Carr showed him pictures of when he enrolled at Michigan—and Grady couldn't believe it was him. Grady has lost baby fat and trimmed down into a lean, powerful runner. Forget about Mike Hart's hamstring and various other injuries; Grady will win the job outright in the fall and give the team a dependable breakaway threat. The team won't file away Hart, but Grady will become the feature back.

ability to stretch defenses. Ecker is Henne's favorite third-and-short target.

Line When a coach addresses weight issues, the first thought is the line. With good reason. Michigan didn't consistently control the point of attack last season. Injuries and constant personnel shuffling played a role in the disappointing play but not to the extent of a sub-4 yard rushing average.

This group, like the others, worked hard in the offseason to shed pounds and add speed. Left tackle Jake Long, an All-American candidate, dropped 20 pounds and says he can tell in his range of motion and endurance—which is what Carr wants. Unfortunately, Long is the only constant in a tenuous situation.

There was shuffling through the spring to find a starting five—and there will be more in the fall—but it appears center Mark Bihl (another who lost weight) has locked up a spot and is comfortable with line calls. Guards Adam Kraus and Rueben Riley are solid returning starters, but Riley could move outside to shore up the pass protection. Mike Kolodziej and Cory Zirbel will compete for the right tackle spot in the fall. That's when star recruit Stephen Schilling—as advanced as any Michigan line recruit in years—enters the mix.

	1		Mark Committee			
	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
200	WR	86	Mario Manningham 🛦	6-0	187	So.
		82	LaTerryal Savoy	6-2	203	Fr.
300	LT	77	Jake Long 🛦	6-7	316	Jr.
		71	Mark Ortmann	6-6	299	Fr.
	LG	57	Adam Kraus A	6-6	295	Jr.
		70	Jeremy Ciulla	6-4	292	So.
	C	54	Mark Bihl	6-5	297	Sr.
		60	David Moosman	6-4	298	Fr.
1	RG	72	Rueben Riley A	6-4	303	Sr.
		73	Alex Mitchell	6-5	311	So.
LVICE	RT	76	Mike Kolodziej 🛦	6-7	307	Sr.
		75	Cory Zirbel	6-5	297	Fr.
1	TE	89	Tyler Ecker A	6-6	247	Sr.
1		83	Mike Massey A	6-4	234	So.
1003	WR	15	Steve Breaston A	6-1	182	Sr.
		16	Adrian Arrington	6-3	187	So.
	QB	7	Chad Henne A	6-2	223	Jr.
1000		19	Jason Forcier	6-2	206	Fr.
and the	RB	20	Mike Hart 🛦	5-9	198	Jr.
		3	Kevin Grady	5-9	216	So.
	FB	35	Brian Thompson	6-2	238	Sr.
		40	Obi Oluigbo	6-0	234	Sr.
4	K	38	Garrett Rivas	5-9	217	Sr.
	KR	15	Steve Breaston A	6-1	182	Sr.
			starters in bold *True fi ospect	eshman		



PHILOSOPHY

Lloyd Carr swears he's going to keep his nose out of the defensive play-calling. Really, he does. He promoted secondary coach Ron English to coordinator and told him he wants the unit to be more aggressive and get after the quarterback. The unit was too predictable in its blitzes last season and too vanilla when it mattered most.

Line It's the strength of the defense—and that's a good place to start. There's depth, quickness and athletic ability, and coordinator Ron English's scheme will allow players to free-lance more with stunts and twists.

End Rondell Biggs is in terrific shape (another in the weight-loss initiative), has bounced back from injury and made huge strides this spring. That means he'll take heat off line-backer/end LaMarr Woodley, the unit's best pass rusher. Woodley dropped weight and worked on pass-rush moves in the spring. Top backup and situational rush end Tim Jamison is in the best shape of his career and could become more than just a nickel-package player.

The interior is where the unit has improved most—and where it needed to. Alan Branch and Terrance Taylor always have been strong upper-body-type players. Now, both have lower-body flexibility and quickness. Marques Walton and Will Johnson will give the unit quality reps as

reserves. Even with all the depth, incoming freshman Jason Kates, a man-child, could be a factor.

Linebackers There's too much talent for this unit to continue to underachieve. English and new linebackers coach Steve Szabo say they'll be more aggressive with the front seven, and more specifically, with the linebackers.

One of the main problems: inside linebacker Chris Graham, whose speed and size have to be used more aggressively. He's too inconsistent and doesn't actively pursue the flow of the play. Retooling Graham's game is the top priority, as it is with inside linebacker Dave Harris. The run defense is set up to funnel plays inside to the linebackers, so there's no room for error.

The staff must find a spot for incoming star freshman Brandon Graham. Initially, he'll likely line up behind Woodley. But if Harris or Chris Graham don't develop, Brandon Graham could take over.

The outside spots are similarly in transition. Prescott Burgess has loads of skill but too often is out of position and chases plays instead of making initial contact. Shawn Crable, another fantastic athlete who hasn't reached his potential, had a big spring and will push for a starting spot. Incoming freshman Cobrani Mixon is physically ready to play.

Secondary So much uncertainty last season, so many questions—and the secondary

wound up being the defense's most consistent unit.

In one season, Leon Hall came from nowhere to develop into a legitimate lockdown corner. A physical, active

player, he's fluid in coverage and strong in run support. If another corner who can play man coverage emerges, the front seven will be turned loose to blitz and gamble more. English thinks speedy Morgan Trent can become more proficient in man coverage with experience. He still is growing into his frame and learning the position.

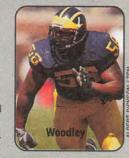
A deep and talented group of safeties is the rock of the unit. Strong safety
Willis Barringer is fantastic in run sup-

port and solid in coverage, He's fighting off dynamic Brandon Harrison, the future of the position who had a big spring and could win the job.

Three players manned the free safety spot last year. Ryan Mundy is the most talented but had his 2005 season ruined by injury. If he can make it back, he'll upgrade the unit's cover skills. Incumbent Brandent Englemon played well last season, and the unit won't lose much if he continues to man the spot. Then there's Jamar Adams, who's pushing Englemon and will be part of the nickel and dime packages.

BREAR OUTPLAYER

There in the Alamo Bowl was DT **Alan Branch**, a young, still learning, still not in shape sophomore, beginning to dominate. He had three sacks that night and really made his presence felt late in the season. He's in terrific shape now and was an absolute terror in spring drills. Branch can become what the staff believed Gabe Watson should've been the past two years: a rare dual-threat (run stuffer and pass rusher) on the interior.



	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	E	91	Rondell Biggs 🔺	6-3	275	Sr.
		90	Tim Jamison	6-3	249	Jr.
	T	67	Terrance Taylor	6-0	305	So.
		95 .	Marques Walton	6-0	291	So.
	T	80	Alan Branch 🛦	6-6	330	Jr.
		97	Will Johnson	6-5	291	So.
	E	56	LaMarr Woodley A	6-2	268	Sr.
		50	Jeremy Van Alstyne	6-4	267	Sr.
-	ILB	37	Chris Graham	5-11	225	Jr.
			Brandon Graham*	6-2	240	Fr.
	ILB	45	Dave Harris A	6-2	242	Sr.
		49	John Thompson	6-1	231	So.
100	OLB	6	Prescott Burgess A	6-3	246	Sr.
1		2	Shawn Crable	6-5	245	Jr.
	CB	14	Morgan Trent	6-1	192	So.
-		4	Darnell Hood	5-11	193	Sr.
	FS	31	Brandent Englemon A	5-11	205	Jr.
100		22	Jamar Adams	6-2	215	Jr.
	SS	19	Willis Barringer A	6-0	205	Sr.
		27	Brandon Harrison	5-8	205	So.
	CB	29	Leon Hall 🔺	5-11	193	Sr.
		5	Charles Stewart	6-1	196	So.
111	P	3	Ross Ryan	6-1	205	Sr.
	PR	15	Steve Breaston A	6-1	182	Sr.
			starters in bold *True fre	shman		

2-MINUTE DRILL WITH RB MIKE HART

Bet you didn't know this about coach Lloyd Carr: Coach doesn't eat mashed potatoes, and he is one of the most well-read individuals. He often uses what he reads to teach us something, whether it's about football or life.

The funniest nickname I've had: "Allstate," like the insurance company.

My most intense teammate: Steve Breaston. Usually he likes



to have fun and goof around all the time, but on game day he doesn't talk to anyone and gets mentally prepared.

The Wolverines' best dresser:

Cornerback Morgan
Trent. He wears a dress
shirt and tie that
matches the color of
that day's opposition to
every game.

Opponents would

 \boldsymbol{say} this about me: That I give it my all every play, and that I like to talk a lot on the field.

My favorite college moment: Hopefully, it's yet to come. I'd say thus far, it was winning the 2004 Big Ten title.

QUICK HITS

Where they play

Stadium: Michigan (artificial, 107,501) Site: Ann Arbor, Mich. Tickets: 866-296-6849

What they run

Offensive scheme: Multiple Defensive scheme: Situational

The last time

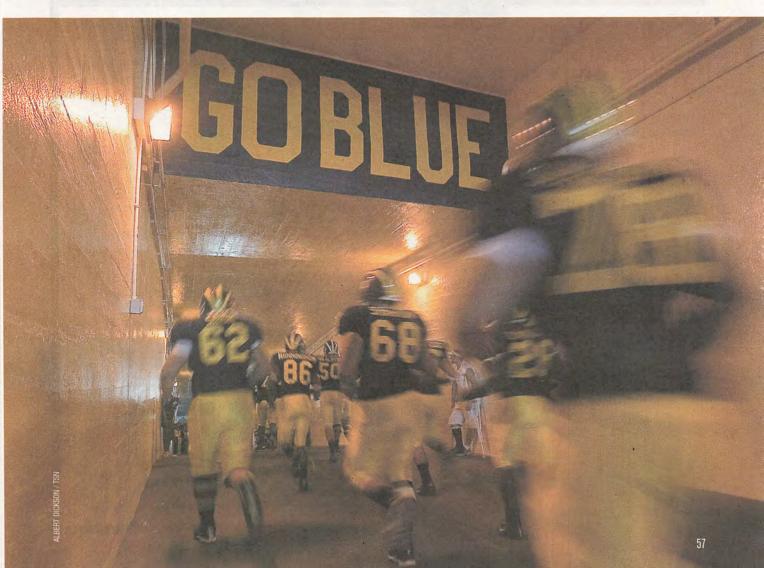
They won a league title: 2004 (tie) They didn't play in a bowl: 1974

Coaching staff

Head coach: Lloyd Carr (102-34, 11 years; 27th at school) Associate head coach/running backs: Fred Jackson (4th year, 15th at school) Assistant head coach/wide receivers: Erik Campbell (4th year, 12th at school)

Offensive coordinator/tight ends:
Mike DeBord (1st year, 11th at school)
Defensive coordinator/safeties:
Ron English (1st year, 4th at school)
Cornerbacks: Ron Lee (1st year)
Quarterbacks: Scot Loeffler (5th year)
Offensive line: Andy Moeller (5th year)
Defensive line: Steve Stripling (2nd year)

Linebackers: Steve Szabo (1st year)



COACHING

Say what you want about Lloyd Carr—he's gruff, he's standoffish, he's losing his grip on the Ohio State rivalry (1-4 vs. Jim Tressel)—the

championships and integrity he has brought Michigan are what really matters. Besides, three of those Ohio State games were winnable in the Carr shook up the

Carr shook up the staff this offseason—not because he was forced to but because

he wanted new ideas and new yins to his yang.

Defensive coordinator Ron English has been

on staff the three previous seasons but brings different ideas than former longtime coordinator Jim Herrmann. Offensive coordinator Mike DeBord ran the Michigan offense from 1997-99 before leaving to take the Central Michigan job. Michigan was as balanced and dangerous during that time (including the 1997 national championship season) as at any juncture in school history.

Erik Campbell is one of the nation's best receivers coaches—the line of All-Americans at the position since 1995 testifies to that—and the focal point of an impressive group of recruiters.

SPECIAL TEAMS

It seems like kicker Garrett Rivas been in Ann Arbor for 18 seasons. He's steady and reliable, although he doesn't have the strongest leg. Inside the 40, he's gold. Outside the 40, it's anybody's guess. Redshirt freshman punter Zoltan Mesko has a big leg and will compete with Ross Ryan for the starting spot. Mesko also likely will handle kickoff duties.

The return game is as good as any in the nation. Even when things were going poorly last season for Steve Breaston as a receiver, he still showed his dynamic ability on punt and kick returns. Speedy receivers Carl Tabb and Antonio Bass also will return kicks, and one could move back on punt returns to keep teams from kicking away from Breaston.

PRIMING 2006

National rank 13 Conference rank 3

Name	Pos.	Ht./wt.	Hometown/school
*1	*** Am	ong the nati	on's top 30 prospects
Brandon Graham	LB	6-2/240	Detroit/Crockett Technical
Stephen Schilling	OL	6-5/285	Bellevue, Wash./Bellevue
**	*** Amon	g the nation	n's top 200 prospects
Justin Boren	OL	6-4/305	Pickerington, Ohio/North
Carlos Brown	RB	6-0/195	Franklin, Ga./Heard County
Stevie Brown	DB	6-0/195	Columbus, Ind./East
Jason Kates	DT	6-4/325	Harrisburg, Pa./Bishop McDevitt
Greg Mathews	WR	6-3/180	Orlando/Edgewater
Brandon Minor	RB	6-0/215	Richmond, Va./Varina
Cobrani Mixon	LB	6-2/206	Cincinnati/Colerain
Jonas Mouton	DB	6-2/212	Los Angeles/Venice
Adam Patterson	DE	6-3/260	Columbia, S.C./Richland Northeast
*	** Among	the nation	s top 500 prospects
Greg Banks	DE	6-6/245	Denver/Montbello
David Cone	QB .	6-6/205	Statesboro, Ga./Statesboro
Perry Dorrenstein	0L	6-7/300	Plainfield, III./Central
Obinna Ezeh	LB/FB	6-2/213	Grand Rapids, Mich./Catholic Central
John Ferrara	DT	6-5/265	Staten Island, N.Y./Monsignor Farrell
Quintin Patilla	LB	6-2/205	Flint, Mich./Carman-Ainsworth
Quintin Woods	TE	6-6/220	Flint, Mich./Flint Southwestern Academy
	**	Solid Divisio	on I prospect
Bryan Wright	K	6-1/200	Salem, Ohio/Salem

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM Biggest get

Biggest get: LB Brandon
Graham is the type of player the
Wolverines must sign. Not only
was he the top prospect in the
state, he's a difference-maker.
USC and several others made
a run at Graham. But in
the end, he saw the
possibility of early
playing time in Ann
Arbor and the chance
to stay close to family

Biggest miss: CB Jai Eugene (Destrehan, La./Destrehan) was an important recruit at a position of need, and he went on national television at the U.S. Army All-America Bowl and told the nation he was heading to Michigan. He later reversed that decision and signed with LSU.

and friends.

Instant impact: DB Jonas
Mouton will get every chance to
play this fall. Other than
offensive line, no other position
was a bigger need. Mouton was
one of the most highly coveted
players in the nation.

Diamond in the rough: QB David Cone didn't get many opportunities to throw in high school, but the Wolverines liked enough of what they saw to offer him a scholarship. Almost every team in the Southeast passed on Cone, but Lloyd Carr saw something special in him.

Battleground: Michigan had a difficult time fending off others, signing just two of the top 10 players in the state.

Michigan State landed three of the top four recruits. That should set up an interesting battle for the class of 2007, a group some are

calling the best in Michigan in years.

Fun facts: OL Justin Boren will continue the Michigan family tradition. His father played for the Wolverines. ... K Bryan Wright's coach said people came to games just to see him warm up. ... RB Carlos Brown had eliminated Michigan and was down to Florida State, Georgia and South Carolina before shocking the nation and picking the Wolverines. ... Retaining assistant Ron English was a major coup, Long regarded as one of the Wolverines' best recruiters, English was set to take a job with the Chicago Bears but decided to stick around after being named defensive coordinator.

-Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

DETI	IDM	DIA	FA	DEDC	
KEIL	IKN	ING	LŀA	DFRS	

RUSHING		At	t.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Mike Hart		15	0	662	4.4	4
Kevin Grady		12	21	483	4.0	5
PASSING	Comp.	Att.	Pc	t. Yds	. TD	Int.
Chad Henne	223	382	58.	4 2,52	5 23	8
RECEIVING		R	ec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Mario Manningham		2	27	433	16.0	6
Steve Breaston		2	26	291	11.2	2
Tyler Ecker		1	21	285	13.6	2
Mike Hart		1	16	154	9.6	1
KICK/PUNT RETU	RNS		No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Steve Breaston			52	1,002	19.3	_ 1
KICKING		XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Garrett Rivas		33	35	19	26	90
TACKLES	Solo	Assi	sts	Total	TFL	Yds.
Dave Harris	52	36		88	6/	20
Prescott Burgess	45	36		81	4/	43
Leon Hall	46	15		61	3	/13
LaMarr Woodley	28	20		48	14,	/67
Willis Barringer	29	14		43		0
Brandent Englemon	24	18		42	2	/16
Chris Graham	24	18		42		3/6
Cacker Woodloy (7)						

Sacks: Woodley (7) Interceptions: Hall (4)

KEY LOSSES

Offense WR Jason Avant (82 rec., 1,007 yards, 8 TDs); G Leo Henige; G Matt Lentz; TE Tim Massaquoi (11 rec., 86 yards); T Adam Stenavich.

Defense CB Grant Mason (85 tackles, 2 int.); T Pat Massey (31 tackles); LB Scott McClintock (9 tackles); T Gabe Watson (40 tackles, 6.5 tackles for loss); LB Pierre Woods (24 tackles, 10 tackles for loss).

2005 TEAM STATISTICS

	Average	Rank
Rushing offense	161.6	. 9th Big Ten/44th nation
Rushing defense	137.3	4th/41st
Passing offense	222.7	7th/61st
Passing defense	207.8	2nd/42nd
Total offense	384.3	9th/55th
Total defense	345.2	3rd/36th
Turnover differential	+5	3rd/35th

2005 RESULTS (7-5, 5-3/T3rd Big Ten)

Northern Illinois	W, 33-17	at Iowa	W, 23-20 (OT)
Notre Dame	L, 17-10	at Northwestern	W, 33-17
Eastern Michigan	W, 55-0	Indiana	W, 41-14
at Wisconsin	L, 23-20	Ohio State	L, 25-21
at Michigan State	W, 34-31 (OT)	Nebraska*	L, 32-28
Minnesota	L, 23-20	*Alamo Bowl	
Penn State	W. 27-25		

TRACKING THE WINS

*Bowl victory

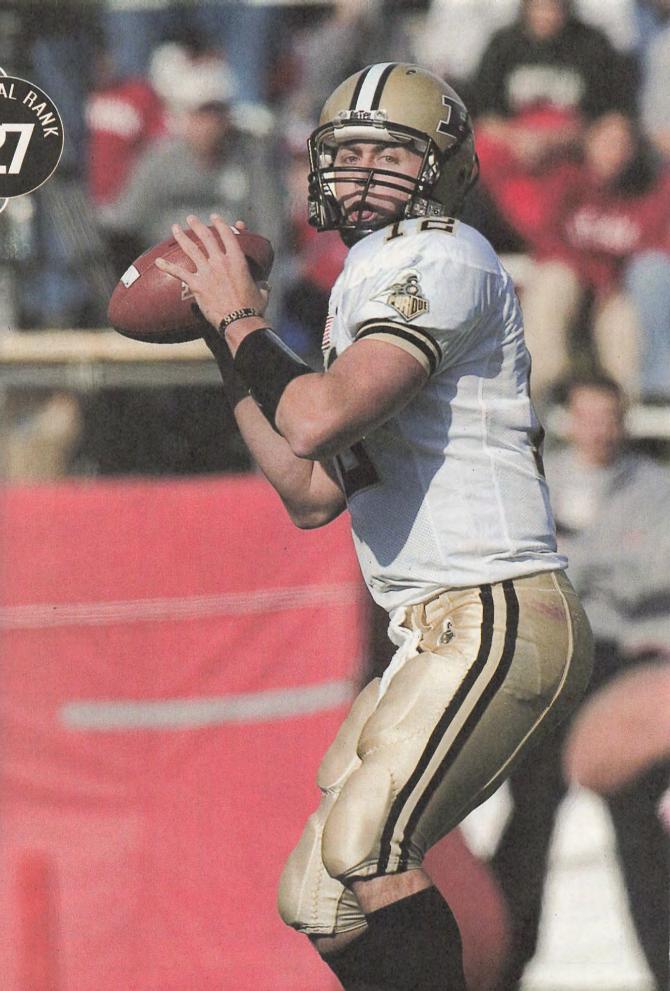
0	1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
05	Alamo		1	1	1		1	-	-	1	1	1
04	Rose	į.	1		1	1	-		-	1	1	
03	Rose	į	1	1		1	1	1		1 1	1	1
02	Outback*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	4	
01	Citrus	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	-	-	1

WO	LVERINES	ROSTER
	Name	Ht./Wt.

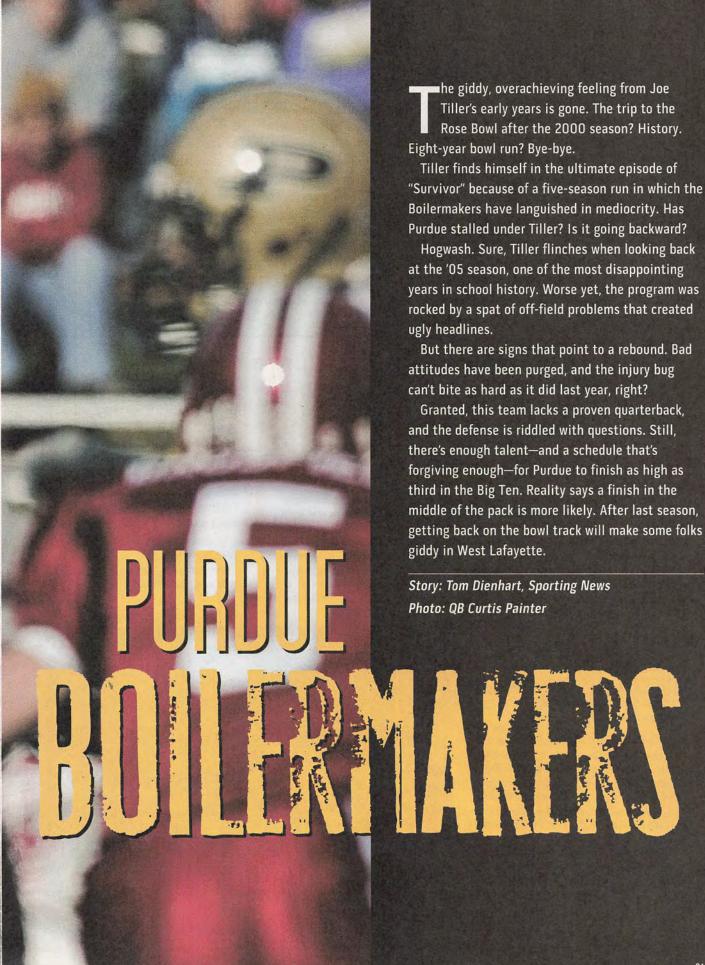
	Name	Ht./Wt.		Exp.	
)	Jason Forcier	6-2/206	Fr.	RS	San Diego/St. Augustine
3	Chad Henne Jeff Kastl	6-2/223	Jr. Sr.	2L 1L	Wyomissing, Pa./Wilson Clinton Township, Mich./Chippewa Valley
	Jeli nasti	0-3/222		NNING BA	
6	Alijah Bradley	5-6/171	Sr.	2L	Hercules, Calif./DeLaSalle Catholic
9	Andre Criswell (FB)	6-1/254	Fr.	RS	Detroit/Renaissance
	Kevin Grady	5-9/216	So.	1L	Grand Rapids, Mich./East Grand Rapids
0	Mike Hart	5-9/198	Jr.	2L	Syracuse, N.Y./Onondaga Central
0	Obi Oluigbo (FB)	6-0/234	Sr.	2L	Laurel, Md./Episcopal
2	Will Paul (FB) Mister Simpson	6-3/252 5-10/210	Jr. Fr.	2L RS	Chesterfield, Mo./Parkway West
15	Brian Thompson (FB)	6-2/238	Sr.	3L	Cincinnati/Colerain Saginaw, Mich./Nouvel Catholic
	brian riioinpson (rb)	0 1/100		ERS/TIGH	
6	Adrian Arrington	6-3/187	So.	1L	Cedar Rapids, Iowa/Washington
8	Antonio Bass	6-0/203	So.	1L	Jackson, Mich./Jackson
5	Steve Breaston	6-1/182	Sr.	3L	North Braddock, Pa./Woodland Hills
5	Carson Butler (TE)	6-4/254	Fr.	RS	Detroit/Renaissance
9	Doug Dutch	5-11/195	So. Sr.	1L 3L	Bowie, Md./Gonzaga College
6	Tyler Ecker (TE) Mario Manningham	6-6/247	So.	1L	El Dorado Hills, Calif./Oak Ridge Warren, Ohio/Warren G. Harding
3	Mike Massey (TE)	6-4/234	So.	1L	Brecksville, Ohio/St. Ignatius
2	LaTerryal Savoy	6-2/203	Fr.	RS	Mamou, La./Mamou
7	Carl Tabb	6-2/204	Sr.	3L	Ann Arbor, Mich./Huron
			OFFE	NSIVE LIN	IEMEN
4	Mark Bihl (C)	6-5/297	Sr.	3L	Washington Court House, Ohio/W.C.H.
0	Jeremy Ciulla (G)	6-4/292	So.	SO	Kennesaw, Ga./Kennesaw Mountain
4	Grant DeBenedictis (T)	6-5/296	So.	00	Boca Raton, Fla./St. Andrews
4	Brett Gallimore (T) Mike Kolodziej (T)	6-4/298	So. Sr.	S0 3L	Parkville, Mo./Park Hill South Joliet, III./Joliet Catholic Academy
7	Adam Kraus (G)	6-6/295	Jr.	2L	New Orleans/Brother Martin
7	Jake Long (T)	6-7/316	Jr.	- ZL	Lapeer, Mich./Lapeer East
2	Tim McAvoy (G)	6-5/288	Fr.	RS	Bloomington, III./Bloomington
3	Alex Mitchell (G)	6-5/311	So.	SQ	Reese, Mich./Bay City Central
0	David-Moosman (C/G)	6-4/298	Fr.	RS	Libertyville, Ill./Libertyville
1	Mark Ortmann (T)	6-6/299	Fr.	RS	Klein, Texas/Klein
2	Rueben Riley (G/T)	6-4/303	Sr. Fr.	2L RS	Grand Rapids, Mich./Creston
8	Justin Schifano (T) Pat Sharrow (G)	6-4/299	Jr.	50	Webster, N.Y./Schroeder Monroe, Mich./Monroe
5	Cory Zirbel (T)	6-5/297	Fr.	RS	Murray, Ky./Murray
į	100	//1		NSIVE LIN	
1	Rondell Biggs (E)	6-3/275	Sr.	3L	Southfield, Mich./Lathrup
0	Alan Branch (E/T)	6-6/330	Jr.	2L	Rio Rancho, N.M./Cibola
6	Eugene Germany (E)	6-2/279	Fr.	RS	Pomona, Calif./Pomona
0	Tim Jamison (E)	6-3/249	Jr.	1L	Riverdale, III./Harvey Thornton
7	Will Johnson (T)	6-5/291	So.	1L	Oakland, Mich./Lake Orion
4	James McKinney (E) Terrance Taylor (T)	6-2/279 6-0/305	Fr. So.	RS 1L	Louisville, Ky./Central Muskegon, Mich./Muskegon
0	Jeremy Van Alstyne (E)	6-4/267	Sr.	3L	Greenwood, Ind./Center Grove
5	Marques Walton (T)	6-0/291	So.	SO	Chicago/Hubbard
6	LaMarr Woodley (E)	6-2/268	Sr.	3L	Saginaw, Mich./Saginaw
				INEBACKE	
	Prescott Burgess	6-3/246	Sr.	3F .	Warren, Ohio/Warren G. Harding
	Shawn Crable	6-5/245	Jr.	2L	Massillon, Ohio/Washington
7	Chris Graham	5-11/225	Jr.	2L	Indianapolis/Warren Central
5	Dave Harris	6-2/242	Sr.	2L	Grand Rapids, Mich./Ottawa Hills
6	Brandon Logan Chris McLaurin	6-0/218	So.	1L RS	Lexington, Ky./Lexington Catholic Rochester Hills, Mich./Orchard Lake St. Mary's
8	Dan Moore	6-3/246 6-0/234	Jr.	50	Canton, Mich./Catholic Central
5	Ohene Opong-Owusu	6-1/238	Fr.	RS	West Bloomfield, Mich./Walled Lake Western
7	Max Pollock	6-1/218	Jr.	SO	Takoma Park, Md./Montgomery Blair
9	John Thompson	6-1/231	So.	1L	Detroit/Crockett
	The second secon			ENSIVE B	
2	Jamar Adams (FS)	6-2/215	Jr.	2L	Charlotte/Butler
9	Willis Barringer (SS) Anton Campbell (FS)	6-0/205	Sr.	3L 2L	Toledo, Ohio/Scott O'Fallon, Mo./Fort Zumwalt West
6	Anton Campbell (FS) Mike Carl (FS)	5-11/193 6-0/205	Jr. Sr.	1L	Troy, Mich./Troy Athens
7	Shakir Edwards	6-0/209	So.	SO	Detroit/Martin Luther King
1	Brandent Englemon (FS)	5-11/205	Jr.	2L	Covington, Ky./Holmes
9	Leon Hall (CB)	5-11/193	Sr.	3L	Vista, Calif./Vista
7	Brandon Harrison (SS)	5-8/205	So.	1L	Dayton, Ohio/Chaminade-Julienne
	Darnell Hood (CB)	5-11/193	Sr.	3L	Detroit/Bishop Gallagher
1	Ryan Mundy (FS)	6-1/205	Jr.	2L	Wilkins Township, Pa./Woodland Hills
8	B.J. Opong-Owusu (SS)	5-11/201	Sr.	2L	West Bloomfield, Mich./Walled Lake Western Milford, Mich./Milford
2	Kyle Plummer (CB) Chris Richards (CB)	5-10/169 5-11/176	Jr. Fr.	SQ RS	Pacoima, Calif./James Monroe
5	Johnny Sears (CB)	6-0/189	Fr.	RS	Fresno, Calif./Edison
	Charles Stewart (CB)	6-1/196	So.	1L	Farmington Hills, Mich./Harrison
4	Morgan Trent (CB)	6-1/192	So.	1L	Brighton, Mich./Orchard Lake St. Mary's
				PECIALIS	
51	Turner Booth (LS)	6-2/257	Sr.	1L	Baltimore/Rockville
9	Sean Griffin (LS)	6-2/234	So.	50	Livonia, Mich./Catholic Central
4	K.C. Lopata (K)	6-2/217	So.	SO	Farmington, Mich./Farmington
1 2	Zoltan Mesko (P)	6-4/218	Fr.	RS	Twinsburg, Ohio/Twinsburg
8	Garrett Rivas (K)	5-9/217 6-1/205	Sr.	3L 1L	Tampa/Jesuit Franklin, Mich./Brother Rice
	Ross Ryan (P)				

Key: L-letters won; RS-redshirt; SO-squad; TR-transfer. 2006 recruits listed on page 58.

PROJECTED FINISH Overall: 9-4 Conference: 5-3/5th



JAY DROWNS / TSN



-	Company of the last of the las	-
	Sept. 9	Mi
	Sept. 16	Ba
	Sept. 23	Mi
THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	Sept. 30	at
	Oct. 7	at
	Oct. 14	at
	Oct. 21	Wi
	Oct. 28	Pe
T. Carrier	Nov. 4	at
	Nov. 11	at
	Nov. 18	Inc
	Nov. 25	at
BIG TEMPS	FOUL STAFMOTH	t N iii t t

Date	Opponent	What it means	TSN pick
Sept. 2	Indiana State	Classic ego-inflating opener vs. an overmatched team. The backup long snapper might even pla	y. W
Sept. 9	Miami (Ohio)	Good Big Ten teams beat decent MAC teams. Average ones often lose. What'll it be, Purdue?	W
Sept. 16	Ball State	The goal: not sleepwalking against a clearly inferior foe. This must be a Drew Brees-like blowou	t. W
Sept. 23	Minnesota	When the Boilers were good, they killed the Gophers. If that happens again, Purdue is back.	W
Sept. 30	at Notre Dame	A win would be great but unlikely. That means the goal is not getting demolished.	L
Oct. 7	at Iowa	Tiller's first win in Iowa City would clear a big mental hurdle—and stamp Purdue legit.	L
Oct. 14	at Northwestern	It's this simple: Purdue must win this game. A loss could cause an irreversible tailspin.	W
Oct. 21	Wisconsin	You know both teams think they can win. The difference? A veteran coach and home field.	W
Oct. 28	Penn State	Big bowl or little bowl? JoePa's rising program will be the ultimate yardstick for the season.	L
Nov. 4	at Michigan State	Raise the red flag in a quintessential tossup game. This could end up being huge.	L
Nov. 11	at Illinois	Looks like a softball. And Purdue has to treat it as such by smacking around the Illini.	W
Nov. 18	Indiana	Nothing's better than burying the Hoosiers, hoisting the Bucket and dreaming of bowl possibilities	es. W
Nov. 25	at Hawaii	If sun and sand are on the Boilers' minds, they'll get burned and buried as they limp off to a bow	1. W

Qualifying for a bowl shouldn't be a problem, though many said that last year, too. The absence of Michigan and Ohio State for a second year in a row improves Purdue's prospects. The quality of bowl will be determined by three consecutive road games, beginning September 30. This could be a great year with a 3-1 Big Ten road mark—and it's possible.

-Comments and predictions by Sporting News

BLOG ALERT

'Purdue has fallen ... Can it get back

up? That's the \$64,000 question in West
Lafayette following a season of discontent, disappointment and defeat. Joe Tiller is better than that. He knows it. You know it. And Purdue will prove it."

For more of Tom Dienhart's take on Purdue, go to www.sportingnews.com

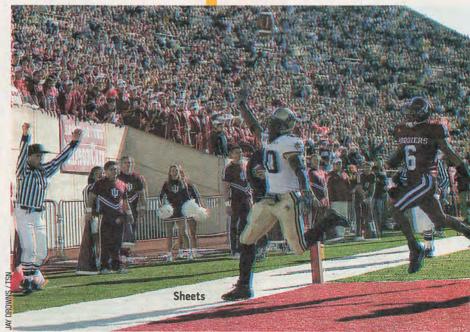
There are a couple really good teams in our league every year, and then there's a group of four or five others. And Purdue usually fits in that group. ... I've heard **Joe Tiller** is getting some heat, and it just flabbergasts me. It reminds me of what happened to Bill Mallory at Indiana. Tiller probably has given Purdue as much success as it ever has known. It's just real hard to do it every year. It's difficult in this league to say "we have arrived." Not many people in this league can say that. ... Adding the option may have helped them last year, but they struggled to pass. ... There was something missing there last year on defense. I thought we could throw the ball on those guys. I heard Purdue had some bad attitudes on defense. That'll kill you. You can't predict that. Leadership just kinda arrives. When you get bad guys, you can't fire them all, so

SCOUTING THE BOILERMAKERS

Views from a pro scout or an opposing coach

you're stuck
with them. ...
They had a
chance to be
OK last year.
It's hard to be
physical
when you do

what they do. I thought their offensive line was OK. They came back on us by throwing it. ... When they are playing well, Tiller does as good a job as anybody of keeping them balanced. I don't think they've had a good running back for a while. I think that's hurt them. I don't think their tailback (Kory Sheets) is great. When they do run, they're as tough to defend as anybody. ... The loss of (offensive coordinator) Jim Chaney is overrated. I think way too much credit is given to the X's and O's. It's more about attitude and emotion. Chaney was good at what he did, but him and a bunch of other guys can do that stuff.



Backfield Before the start of last season, Joe Tiller said Purdue would go as far as quarterback Brandon Kirsch took it. It was a short ride. By Game 6, the bratty Kirsch was benched—he eventually declared early for the NFL draft—in favor of Curtis Painter.

Painter showed promise in five starts. He's a decent athlete who ran the option better than expected and has the size to take hits. And his attitude is a major upgrade from Kirsch. However, Painter needs to improve his deep passing. Good news: He had a great spring.

The backup is redshirt freshman Joey Elliott, who's a better athlete than Painter. Tiller loves Elliott's moxie and leadership.

Is running back Kory Sheets ready to be the man? Jerod Void and Brandon Jones are gone, so he had better be. Sheets flashed speed and bigplay skills last year as a redshirt freshman, but durability and fumbling issues must be resolved. As insurance, the staff signed two junior college transfers. Jaycen Taylor is a slithery sort who also could play receiver. Dario Camacho is a bruiser. True freshman Deon Williams also could get a shot. Former fullback Anthony Heygood is another possibility after he excelled in the spring. Frank Halliburton is a promising fullback.

Receivers. This unit makes Tiller scratch his head. He knows what he has in Dorien Bryant: a compact speedster who ranked second in the Big Ten with 80 catches in 2005. If Bryant finds space, look out.

Tiller also feels good about Kyle Ingraham, but Ingraham bolted campus in the spring to straighten out his academics. Will he return? The 6-9 freak always seems to be hurt, but he's a proven commodity. Greg Orton is scheduled for a breakout. He has the size and speed but needs polish and improved hands.

Tiller acts like a 6-year-old at Toys "R" Us when he talks about Selwyn Lymon, who failed to qualify last year but still attended classes. Lymon is supposed to be great—he's

big and fast—but is he the real deal? Everyone is holding their breath.

You can put the rest of the receivers in a bag, shake 'em up and pull one out. They're all the same: ham-and-eggers.

Dustin Keller is viewed as an upgrade over departed tight end Charles Davis. Look for the staff to cook up ways to get the ball to Keller, a terrific athlete who has added bulk. Tiller thinks he has three tight ends who can play, so some

PHILOSOPHY

The Boilermakers like to stretch the field from a one-back, three-wide formation and create space for receivers and running backs. The option was added last spring and had the desired impact: a beefed up running game that incorporated the wideouts as ballcarriers. Look for more of the same, but this offense still will flood the field with five wides and throw, throw, throw if needed.

BREAK OUTPLAYER

TE Dustin Keller has impressed many with his athletic prowess since he joined the team. His problem? Injuries. Keller has to get tougher. But the local product and former prep high jump champion is bigger, stronger—and healthier—than ever. Plus, TE Charles Davis has departed. No doubt, young QB Curtis Painter will need a security blanket, but Keller can be more—he could become the Big Ten's best tight end.

new twists could be in store.

Line. The pleasant surprises were few and far between last year. This was one of them. If development continues, this could be Purdue's best line since the 2000 Rose Bowl team.

The introduction of the option meant the line rarely faced "junk" defenses, which meant blocking assignments were simplified. That was a factor in Purdue allowing the second-fewest sacks in the Big Ten (nine) and improving its rushing game from 10th in '04 to sixth.

Center Matt Turner departed, but the staff moved starting left guard Robbie Powell over the ball. Powell is a rangy blocker with tenacity and is maturing into a solid contributor.

Left guard Uche Nwaneri got booted from school last year after fighting with a teammate but is back. He's a tough, physical blocker. Right guard Jordan Grimes is a kick-downthe-door, knuckle-dragger who could play for any Big Ten team.

Left tackle Mike Otto is more of an athlete than a bulldozer, but he's good. In fact, Otto might play on Sundays. Towering right tackle Sean Sester is a year from being something special. Backup tackle Garret Miller is a feisty sort who's capable of starting.

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
WR	89	Kyle Ingraham	6-9	228	Sr.
	20	Andre Chattams	6-0	198	Sr.
WR	9	Dorien Bryant 🛦	5-10	175	Jr.
	6	Desmond Tardy	6-1	192	So.
LT	65	Mike Otto 🗥	6-5	304	Sr.
	51	Garret Miller	6-8	279	So.
LG	67	Uche Nwaneri 🔼	6-3	300	Sr.
	60	Zach Smith	6-4	286	So.
C	68	Robbie Powell	6-5	297	Jr.
	78	Cory Benton	6-3	276	So.
RG	66	Jordan Grimes 📥	6-3	334	Jr.
	53	Nick Fincher	6-4	292	Jr.
RT	74	Sean Sester	6-8	309	So.
	50	Eric Hedstrom	6-7	295	Fr.
TE	28	Dustin Keller 🗥	6-4	244	Jr.
	80	Jerry Wasikowski	6-4	253	So.
WR	21	Greg Orton	6-4	191	So.
	82	Derek Benson	6-1	191	Fr.
QB	12	Curtis Painter	6-4	228	So.
	14	Joey Elliott	6-3	210	Fr.
RB	24	Kory Sheets	6-0	199	So.
	33	Jaycen Taylor	5-10	175	So.
K	8	Casey Welch	5-9	167	Sr.
KR	9	Dorien Bryant	5-10	175	Jr.
	-	starters in bold *True for	reshman		

INSIDE THE

Line If there was a poster child for the dysfunction that epitomized Purdue in 2005, it was end Ray Edwards. He went from supposed star to sulking sub.
Then, he declared for the draft. Edwards' ample attitude won't be missed. In fact, this group could be strong, especially at tackle.

Keep an eye on Alex Magee. His combination of size and athleticism is rare for a tackle at Purdue. Ryan Baker is a fiery, rangy athlete who could develop into a handful. Jermaine Guynn is an overachiever, and hard-working Jared Zwilling has coaches thinking big.

End is more problematic. While Edwards won't be missed, Rob Ninkovich will be. He was the epitome of the undersized speed rusher Purdue has made famous.

Who's next? It could be junior college transfers Mike McDonald or Jeff Benjamin, who both arrived in time for spring practice. McDonald is cut from a similar mold as Ninkovich. It might be now or never for Eugene Bright. Cliff Avril is a wild card. He's a linebacker who could switch to end on passing downs. While the search for a pass rusher continues, Anthony Spencer remains an anchor against the run on the other side. He's big and strong but can't stay healthy.

Linebackers There's no lack of talent or experience, but things aren't clicking.

Avril figures to man the strong side with Bobby Iwuchukwu gone. Avril is big, fast and strong. He could be special. The staff loves the athletic ability of Stanford Keglar, but they wish he cared more about football.

George Hall has patrolled the middle for two years but was suspended for spring ball for breaking rules. He hasn't met a brick wall he wouldn't run through. However, Hall moves like he has bricks in his pants. Undersized Dan Bick might be a better option. He's aggressive but needs to get stronger and bigger to avoid injury. The speedy Bick is a better fit on the weak side. It doesn't matter where he lines up. He'll play—and play hard. Converted safety Jason Werner is an intriguing athlete worth watching.

Josh Ferguson will figure into the mix somewhere, likely inside. Another possibility is Jeff Lindsay, Purdue's most-touted recruit. His speed and size make him a fit at a number of spots.

Secondary Hide the women and children:
It's the Purdue secondary! Injuries, attitude
and inexperience were the stars for what was
an X-rated display last year. How bad was it?
A receiver (Ray Williams) was converted to cornerback during the season—and started. And was the unit's
best player. How did this happen?

PHILOSOPHY

Purdue always sacrifices size for speed, and it usually works. Brock Spack is one of the Big Ten's most respected coordinators, and he's motivated to show that last year's struggles were a product of injuries, youth and bad attitudes. Purdue will operate a 4-3 scheme that features timely blitzes with a variety of coverages. This isn't a read-and-react defense, It's all about attacking.

RRANO TPLAYER

SS Torri Williams was supposed to star last year after showing flashes as a true freshman in 2004, but he broke a leg in spring drills, then tore muscles in a foot over the summer. He redshirted—and the secondary ended up in a heap. Williams is back, ready to inject the ballhawking athletic ability the unit so desperately needs. His positive outlook and charisma should make the defense better. But caution: Williams battled back issues all spring.

If Edwards was a headache, strong safety Bernard Pollard was a migraine. Pollard was good, but he was a me-first guy, and his surly attitude was poisonous. Tiller wishes he had kicked him off the team. Pollard declared for the draft. Tiller cheered.

This much is certain: strong safety Torri Williams must excel. The staff planned to build around him last year, but an injury ended his season before it began. He's back and presumably healthy. His athletic ability is desperately needed. Free safety is a mess. Junior college transfer Brandon Blackmon could start. Good thing he was around for spring drills. Caution: He's never played the position, and he struggled in the spring and got hurt.

The cornerback situation is murky—at best. Zach Logan looks like a lock for one spot, assuming he has gotten over a horrible spring. Still, Logan is a decent athlete who figures to improve. Promising Brandon King might win the other spot, but he's a work in progress, too.

There's a cache of uninspiring veterans to throw out there: Paul Long, Brandon Whittington, Fabian Martin. Junior college safety Justin Scott could be a star. Who knows? Stay tuned—if your stomach is strong.

		-	Section .	1-0		
	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	E	45	Eugene Bright	6-4	254	Jr.
		87	Mike McDonald	6-2	250	Jr.
	T	90	Ryan Baker	6-6	282	So.
		54	Jared Zwilling	6-4	281	Fr.
	T	71	Alex Magee 🔺	6-5	275	So.
		92	Mike Neal	6-4	270	Fr.
لللا	E	49	Anthony Spencer A	6-3	261	Sr.
	BELL!	95	Keyon Brown	6-3	230	Fr.
	WLB	36	Dan Bick	6-1	218	Jr.
	1.00	29	Jason Werner	6-4	208	So.
	MLB	30	George Hall	6-2	243	Sr.
		17	Josh Ferguson	6-3	234	Jr.
	SLB	32	Cliff Avril A	6-3	240	Jr.
1		59	Stanford Keglar 🛦	6-2	240	Jr.
	CB	7	Brandon King	5-11	184	So.
		4	Fabian Martin	5-11	188	So.
	FS	15	Brandon Blackmon	6-0	. 194	Jr.
TE WA		19	Brandon Whittington	6-2	206	So.
	SS	2	Torri Williams	6-2	204	So.
	37	25	Paul Long	6-2	194	Jr.
1	CB	5	Zach Logan	5-11	186	So.
		39	Aaron Lane	5-8	172	Jr.
	P	11	Jared Armstrong	6-3	231	Jr.
	PR	7	Brandon King	5-11	184	So.
	Retu	rning	starters in bold *True fi	reshman		
	A N	FL pro	spect			
700			the second second second	200		

2-MINUTE DRILL WITH OT MIKE OTTO

The Boilermakers' worst dresser: We went bowling a few nights ago, and Kory Sheets came dressed with a huge Bugs Bunny on his shirt. He had Bugs Bunny everywhere, even on his jeans. He thought he was looking good. I looked at him and just started laughing. We were all giving him a hard time, and he thought he was looking really good for a night out.

The team with the meanest fans: I'd probably have to go with lowa. It's not that they're really mean-they're just right

DROWNS / TSN

next to you, a couple, 3 feet behind you. They yell at you, they scream at you, and you can't hear anything.

Opponents would say my best skill is: Just how physical I am. I'm a player who will get in your face, play you, drag you, block you until the whistle blows. I'm going to try to put you on your back every time.

My favorite school

tradition: Every time we win a game, the whole team runs over and sings the school song in front of the fans. If we're at home, we sing in front of the students. It's an awesome thing—everybody's excited.

QUICK HITS

Where they play

Stadium: Ross-Ade (grass, 62,500) Site: West Lafayette, Ind. Tickets: 800-497-7678

What they run

Offensive scheme: One-back Defensive scheme: 4-3

The last time

They won a league title: 2000 (tie) They played in a bowl: 2004

Coaching staff

Head coach: Joe Tiller (67-43, 9 years; 106-73-1 overall, 15 years) Assistant head coach/special teams coordinator/defensive tackles: Mark Hagen (2nd year, 7th at school) Co-offensive coordinator/centers/ guards: Bill Legg (1st year, 4th at school)

Co-offensive coordinator/quarterbacks: Ed Zaunbrecher (1st year, 4th at school) Defensive coordinator/linebackers: Brock Spack (10th year, 14th at school) Defensive backs: Lou Anarumo (3rd year) Offensive tackles/tight ends: John McDonell (1st year)

Running backs: Joel Thomas (1st year, 3rd at school)

Wide receivers: Brian Rock (1st year) Defensive ends: Terrell Williams (1st year)



JAY DROWNS / TSN

Tiller

COACHIN

It was a case of man overboard, or men overboard, after five assistants bolted. Joe Tiller is used to this. He has had to replace at least one assistant each year since arriving in 1997. In almost every case, those coaches left for better-paying jobs.

The key loss was offensive coordinator Jim Chaney, who took a job with the St. Louis Rams. He was a good recruiter who helped shape the offense the past nine years. Chaney will be missed. though he had become a lightning rod for criticism.

Tiller hired veteran Ed Zaunbrecher from Illinois to co-coordinate the offense with Bill

Legg, the lone offensive holdover who also will

coach centers/guards. Getting Zaunbrecher was a

coup. He's a former head coach and coordinator who has molded the likes of Byron Leftwich, Rex Grossman and Chad Pennington. Zaunbrecher will play a big role in calling plays and improving the passing game.

Tiller tabbed Joel Thomas (Idaho) to coach running backs, Brian Rock (Western Michigan) for receivers, Terrell Williams (Akron) for the defensive ends and John McDonell (Stanford) for tackles and tight ends.

Defensive coordinator Brock Spack is the only holdover from Tiller's original staff. Spack is respected and has had many chances to leave. All signs point to him being Tiller's successor.

SPECIAL TEAMS

This is a mixed bag, as usual, Promising punter Dave Brytus transferred to Pitt to be closer to home, but he never fulfilled his promise. Inconsistent kicker Ben Jones also is gone.

Punter Jared Armstrong, a junior college All-American, was handed the job the second the ink dried on his letter-of-intent. He also might kick if Casey Welch or a newcomer tank. A holder and long snapper also must be found.

Every year, there's talk of ramping up the return game. And every year, it's largely the same-average. Lance Melvin showed promise as a punt returner but got booted off the team for breaking rules. Brandon King might be the frontrunner. There's more potential at kickoff returner, where Dorien Bryant adds scary speed.

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

National rank 50 Conference rank 8

Ht./wt. Hometown/school

**** Among the nation's top 30 prospects

		totte tier	ion's top so prospects
None			
	*** Amo	ng the natio	n's top 200 prospects
Jeff Lindsay	ATH	6-4/210	Macomb, Mich./L'Anse Creuse North
	*** Amor	g the nation	's top 500 prospects
Royce Adams	DB	6-0/180	South Euclid, Ohio/Glenville
Jeff Benjamin	DE	6-2/260	Corona, Calif./Riverside C.C. (Calif.)
Dario Camacho	RB	5-10/200	Riverside, Calif./Citrus College (Calif.)
Kevin Green	LB	6-2/215	North Chicago, III./North Chicago
Jeff Panfil	QB .	6-5/185	Fort Worth, Texas/North Crowley
Justin Scott	DB	6-0/215	Sanford, Fla./College of the Sequoias (Calif.)
Kyle Sheehan	DT	6-3/245	Fairmont, Minn./Fairmont
Keith Smith	ATH	6-2/195	Fort Hood, Texas/Shoemaker
Deon Williams	RB	6-0/200	Loves Park, III./Guilford
	**	Solid Divisio	n I prospects
Kyle Adams	TE	6-5/235	Austin, Texas/Westlake
Jared Armstrong	P	6-3/231	Gilberts, III./Harper C.C. (III.)
Brandon Blackmon	DB	6-0/194	Fullerton, Calif./Mt. San Antonio C.C. (Calif.)
Tim Dougherty	K	5-10/165	Louisville, Ky./Saint Xavier
Brandon Erwin	DB	6-2/185	Loganville, Ga./Grayson
John Humphrey	LB	6-1/205	Youngstown, Ohio/Liberty
Jonte Lindsey	DB	5-10/170	Riverside, Calif./Riverside C.C. (Calif.)
Roberto McBean	WR	6-0/190	Berkeley, Calif./City College of San Francisco
Mike McDonald	DE	6-2/250	Gatesville, Texas/Tyler J.C. (Texas)
David Pender	DB	6-1/175	Folkston, Ga./Chariton County
Justin Pierce	0L	6-4/300	Tom Bean, Texas/Tom Bean
Ryan Prater	OL	6-5/260	Dallas/Trinity Christian Academy
Mario Swope	ATH	5-10/185	Carmel, Ind./Brebeuf Jesuit
Jaycen Taylor	RB	5-10/175	Hawthorne, Calif./Los Angeles Harbor C.C.

Biggest get: The staff held on to an early commitment from ATH Jeff Lindsay. He has a dynamic combination of size and speed and could play a variety of positions-likely linebacker.

Biggest miss: Purdue wanted five Indiana players-and got none. On top of that, four players reneged on verbal commitments: WR Christian Caflisch (Texas A&M), K Chad Cunningham (Tennessee). WR Tertavian Ingram (Kansas) and DB Jovani Chappel (Pitt). Wait, there's more: Two junior college recruits quickly left because of academics.

Instant impact: It's vital many of the remaining nine junior college transfers play this fall, or the program is in trouble. The staff focused on defensive backs, defensive ends and running backs, but the best of the bunch might be P Jared Armstrong. Five of the transfers were on campus for spring practice. Prep recruit Tim Dougherty, a late addition, will get first crack at kicking.

Diamond in the rough: DB David Pender was a tantalizing prospect, but academics scared

many programs. He has tremendous speed and decent size, but he's raw and likely will need to redshirt-if he gets in school.

Battleground: The staff fought off Iowa and Boston College for

LB Kevin Green. Ohio State made a late push for DT Kyle Sheehan. California and Illinois wanted Armstrong. Fun facts: WR Selwyn

Lymon was one of the Boilermakers' biggest catches in 2005 but failed to qualify. He attended classes last year and worked out on his own before re-signing. ... Purdue got just one player from Indiana, ATH Mario Swope. He was the last player offered. ... DB Brandon Erwin and Sheehan were teammates at Grayson (Loganville, Ga.) before Sheehan moved for his senior year. Sheehan committed early and persuaded Purdue coaches to check out Erwin, whose speed and size earned the track champion a scholarship. ... Jeff Panfil was a fast-rising prospect who was added late, making him the only pure quarterback signed. ... Deon Williams was the highest-rated running back in Illinois.

-Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

RETURNING	LEAD	ERS				
RUSHING		Att.	Yd	s.	Avg.	TD
Kory Sheets		104	5	71	5.5	10
Curtis Painter		52	2!	51	4.8	4
PASSING	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Curtis Painter	89	170	52.4	932	3	5
RECEIVING		Rec.	Y	ds.	Avg.	TD
Dorien Bryant		80	9	60	12.0	4
Kyle Ingraham		41	5	00	12.2	0
Andre Chattams		17	1	178	10.5	1
KICK/PUNT RETU	IRNS	N	lo.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Dorien Bryant			21	500	23.8	1
KICKING		XPM)	(PA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
None						
TACKLES	Solo	Assist	s T	otal	TFL,	Yds.
George Hall	40	37		77	1	2/6
Stanford Keglar	30	20		50		3/6
Zach Logan	29	14		43	2.5	/11
Dan Bick	26	14		40	3.5	/11

Dan Bick 26 Sacks: Anthony Spencer (3)

Interceptions: Bick, Josh Ferguson, Keglar (1)

KEY LOSSES

Offense: TE Charles Davis (26 rec., 311 yards); K Ben Jones (8 of 14 FGs, 40 of 42 PATs); OB Brandon Kirsch (152-of-257, 1,727 yards, 7 TDs, 8 int.); WR Kevin Noel (14 rec., 135 yards); C Matt Turner; RB Jerod Void (team-high 130 att., team-high 696 yards, 10 TDs).

Defense: P Dave Brytus (62 punts, 39.5 avg.); E Ray Edwards (28 tackles, 5.5 sacks); T Brent Grover; LB Bobby Iwuchukwu (27 tackles); E Rob Ninkovich (48 tackles, team-high 17 tackles for loss, team-high 8 sacks); SS Bernard Pollard (team-high 92 tackles, team-high 3 int.); FS Kyle Smith (24 tackles); T Brandon Villarreal (53 tackles, 8.5 tackles for loss); CB Ray Williams (22 tackles).

2005 TEAM STATISTICS

	Average	Rank
Rushing offense	186.7	6th Big Ten/31st nation
Rushing defense	143.5	5th/50th
Passing offense	241.7	4th/36th
Passing defense	287.3	11th/111th
Total offense	428.5	5th/25th
Total defense	430.7	9th/100th
Turnover differential	+3	4th/44th

2005 RESULTS (5-6, 3-5/8th Big Ten)

Akron	W, 49-24	at Wisconsin	L, 31-20
at Arizona	W. 31-24	at Penn State	L, 33-15
at Minnesota	L. 42-35 (20T)	Michigan State	W, 28-21
Notre Dame	L. 49-28	Illinois	W, 37-3
lowa	L, 34-17	at Indiana	W, 41-14
Northwestern	1 34-29		

							-	-	-	40	44	10	40
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RN	ILERMAKERS	ROSTE	R		*
No.	Name	Ht./Wt.	CI.	Exp.	Hometown/previous school
14	Joey Elliott	6-3/210	Fr.	RS	Evansville, Ind./Harrison
17	Thomas Haan	6-0/195	Fr.	RS	Lafayette, Ind./Central Catholic
3	Henry Lau	6-5/253	Fr.	RS	Menomonee Falls, Wis./Menomonee Falls
12	Curtis Painter	6-4/228	So.	1L	Vincennes, Ind./Lincoln
		. n fn in		NNING BA	
44	Frank Halliburton (FB)	6-3/245	Fr.	RS	Indianapolis/Bishop Chatard
42	Anthony Heygood	6-2/221 5-10/187	So. Fr.	1L RS	Chester, Pa./Cardinal O'Hara Indianapolis/Bishop Chatard
46	Dray Mason Ted Miller	6-1/205	Fr.	RS	West Lafayette, Ind./Harrison
24	Kory Sheets	6-0/199	So.	1L	Manchester, Conn./Bloomfield
23	Joe Williams	5-8/204	So.	SO	Pomona, Calif./Ohio State
			RECEIV	ERS/TIGH	IT ENDS
82	Derek Benson	6-1/191	Fr.	RS	West Hartford, Conn./The Hun School
9	Dorien Bryant	5-10/175	Jr.	2L	Swedesboro, N.J./Fork Union Military Academy (Va.)
3	Garret Bushong	6-5/247	Jr.	1L	Ionia, Mich./Ionia
20	Andre Chattams	6-0/198	Sr.	2L RS	Dayton, Ohio/Chaminade-Julienne McDonough, Ga./Eagle's Landing Christian
97 89	Alec Huber (TE)	6-5/240 6-9/228	Fr. Sr.	3L	San Antonio/Clark
28	Nyle Ingraham Dustin Keller (TE)	6-4/244	Jr.	2L	Lafayette, Ind./Jefferson
86	Chase Lecklider	6-0/204	Sr.	1L	Indianapolis/Lawrence Central
00	Selwyn Lymon	6-4/190	Fr.	HS	Fort Wayne, Ind./Harding
21	Greg Orton	6-4/191	So.	1L	Dayton, Ohio/Wayne
88	Jake Standeford	6-2/189	Jr.	11.	Monrovia, Ind./Monrovia
6	Desmond Tardy	6-1/192	So.	S0	Indianapolis/Warren Central
80	Jerry Wasikowski (TE)	6-4/253	So.	11	Cudahy, Wis./Cudahy
84	Byron Williams	6-3/191	Jr.	50	Clayton, N.J./Camden Catholic
		4 0 1074		NSIVE LIN	
78	Cory Benton (C)	6-3/276	So. Jr.	S0 S0	Indianapolis/Cathedral Clinton Township, Mich./Chippewa Valley
53	Nick Fincher (G) Jordan Grimes (G)	6-4/292 6-3/334	Jr.	2L	Plainfield, Ind./Plainfield
50	Eric Hedstrom (T)	6-7/295	Fr.	RS	Arlington Heights, III./Prospect
70	Zach Jones (T)	6-4/311	Fr.	RS	Plainfield, Ind./Plainfield
76	Jason Kacinko (G)	6-6/303	Fr.	RS	Harrison City, Pa./Penn-Trafford
57	Dan McGowen (G)	6-0/279	Sr.	1L	Denham, Ind./North Judson San Pierre
51	Garret Miller (T)	6-8/279	So.	1L	Bay City, Texas/Bay City
67	Uche Nwaneri (G)	6-3/300	Sr.	1L	Garland, Texas/Naaman Forest
65	Mike Otto (T)	6-5/304	Sr.	3L	Kokomo, Ind./Maconaquah
63	Eric Pickell (C)	6-2/297	Fr.	RS	Mettawa, III./Libertyville
68	Robbie Powell (C)	6-5/297	Jr.	1L	Roanoke, Va./Fork Union Military Academy (Va.) Evansville, Ind./Evansville North
64 75	Nick Raben (G)	6-3/275	Sr. Fr.	RS	Cincinnati/Indian Hill
74	Zach Reckman (T) Sean Sester (T)	6-8/309	So.	1L	Fort Thomas, Ky./Highlands
60	Zach Smith (G)	6-4/286	So.	SO	Terrace Park, Ohio/Moeller
69	Neal Tull (G)	6-3/294	Jr.	SO	Lafayette, Ind./McCutcheon
73	Dan Zaleski (T)	6-4/291	So.	SO	Richmond, Ind./Richmond
			DEFE	NSIVE LI	NEMEN
90	Ryan Baker (T)	6-6/282	So.	1L	Indianapolis/Bishop Chatard
45	Eugene Bright (E)	6-4/254	Jr.	2L	Bryn Mawr, Pa./Harriton
95	Keyon Brown (E)	6-3/230	Fr.	RS	Homewood, III./Thornton Township
91	Nick Cavallo (E)	6-3/259	Sr.	2L	Plainville, Conn./Milford Academy Indianapolis/Cathedral
79 52	Jermaine Guynn (T)	6-1/277 6-3/271	So. Sr.	1L SQ	St. John, Ind./Indiana State University
71	Adam Huebner (E) Alex Magee (T)	6-5/275	So.	1L	Oswego, III./Oswego
92	Mike Neal (T)	6-4/270	Fr.	RS	Merrillville, Ind./Merrillville
99	Jonathan Patton (T)	6-4/279	So.	SQ	Chicago/Hubbard
49	Anthony Spencer (E)	6-3/261	Sr.	3L	Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers
54	Jared Zwilling (T)	6-4/281	Fr.	RS	Evansville, Ind./Central
			ı	INEBACK	
32	Cliff Avril	6-3/240	Jr.	2L	Green Cove Springs, Fla./Clay
36	Dan Bick	6-1/218	Jr.	2L	Louisville, Ky./Saint Xavier
47	Mike Durrett	6-0/226	Jr.	20	Indianapolis/Northwest Altamonte Springs, Fla./Lake Brantley
17 30	Josh Ferguson	6-3/234 6-2/243	Jr. Sr.	2L 3L	Groton, Conn./Fitch
59	George Hall Stanford Keglar	6-2/240	Jr.	2L	Indianapolis/Pike
41	John Lampert	6-3/219	Sr.	1L	Abilene, Texas/Wylie
81	Al Royal	6-0/228	Sr.	2L	Belle Glades, Fla./Glades Central
29	Jason Werner	6-4/208	So.	SO	Greenwood, Ind./Roncalli
			DE	FENSIVE I	BACKS
37	Paul Dubler (CB)	6-1/184	Jr.	50	Gurnee, III./Warren Township
7	Brandon King (CB)	5-11/184	So.	11	Warner Robbins, Ga./Houston County
48	Pat Kohtz (SS)	6-1/211	Sr.	11	Frankfort, Ind./Frankfort
39	Aaron Lane (CB)	5-8/172	Jr.	50	Fort Wayne, Ind./University of Saint Francis
5	Zach Logan (CB)	5-11/186	So. Jr.	1L 2L	Trotwood, Ohio/Trotwood-Madison Dayton, Ohio/Meadowdale
25	Paul Long (CB/S) Fabian Martin (CB)	6-2/194 5-11/188	So.	11	Chicago/Prosser
19	Brandon Whittington (FS)		So.	1L	Collingswood, N.J./Collingswood
2	Torri Williams (SS)	6-2/204	So.	1L	Cedar Park, Texas/Leander
27	Adam Wolf (FS)	5-11/201	Fr.	RS	Tampa/Jesuit
	ALCOHOLD TO THE REAL PROPERTY.			SPECIALI	
44	Tom Hansen (K)	5-9/184	Fr.	RS	Powell, Ind./Powell
62	Andy Huffman (LS)	6-3/270	Fr.	RS	Montpelier, Ind./Blackford County
61	Chris Mattson (LS)	6-0/201	Jr.	SO	Carmel, Ind./Cathedral
43	Kyle Mossbrucker (K/P)	5-8/194 E-0/167	Fr.	RS	Camby, Ind./Mooresville .
8	Casey Welch (K/P)	5-9/167	Sr.	S0	Ford City, Pa./West Virginia University

ECTED FINISH Overall: 8-4 Conference: 4-4/6th

WISCONSIN B. C. T. C. T.



Pret Bielema knows where to find former coach Barry Alvarez, whose athletic director digs aren't far from Bielema's office. But Bielema thinks he'll be just fine as he moves from defensive coordinator to head coach to take over for Alvarez. Bielema's task: Replace a coach whose popularity rivals the state's holy trinity of beer, brats and cheese.

Bielema is saying all the right things. Stuff like "the only pressure you feel is the pressure in your own mind."

Regardless, facts are facts. And the fact is Bielema is replacing one of the Big Ten's best-ever coaches. Alvarez lifted the Badgers from the Don Morton morass to three Big Ten championships in 16 seasons.

Bielema? He's 36 years old. And he has never been a head coach. But Alvarez was 43 when he got the gig in 1990 and never had been a head coach. Like Alvarez, Bielema has a good pedigree, having played and coached at lowa for Hayden Fry before working under Kansas State's Bill Snyder and lowa's Kirk Ferentz.

This just might work out for Bielema. He'll lean on a veteran defense until he sorts out issues at running back and receiver.

If things go right, the Badgers could play in a New Years' Day bowl.

Story: Tom Dienhart, Sporting News

Photo: OT Joe Thomas

Date	Opponent	What it means	SN pick
Sept. 2	at Bowling Green*	A slow Big Ten team with a good secondary vs. a pass-happy MAC team? Could be interesting.	W
Sept. 9	Western Illinois	Time to fine-tune that running game. And the new receivers will get some work—but not much.	W -
Sept. 16	San Diego State	One old Hawkeye (Chuck Long) vs. another (Bret Bielema). Hayden Fry must be smiling.	W
Sept. 23	at Michigan	Is Bielema worthy of Barry Alvarez's throne? This will be the opening salvo in the debate.	L
Sept. 30	at Indiana	The first of what needs to be three wins in a row, setting up a big game at Purdue.	W
Oct. 7	Northwestern	Time to hold serve at home, but beware: This sometimes isn't a good matchup for the Badgers.	W
Oct. 14	Minnesota	Classic throw-out-the-records game for Paul Bunyan's Axe. Wisconsin has to win, right? Uh, no.	L
Oct. 21	at Purdue	Perfect litmus test to determine if the Badgers are average or pretty darn good.	L
Oct. 28	Illinois	Considering the difficulty of the next two foes, nothing but an old-fashioned beat-down will suffi	ce. W
Nov. 4	Penn State	Name a better way to gain legitimacy than by beating JoePa in a game that could mean a lot.	W
Nov. 11	at Iowa	Good bowl or bad bowl? That's the question that figures to be answered.	L
Nov. 18	Buffalo	Not gonna say "creampuff" ah, go ahead and say it. Let the Fifth Quarter begin!	W

EDULF SIME

The nonconference schedule isn't as easy as it looks. And will spirits dip if the Badgers get their lunch handed to them in Ann Arbor in the Big Ten opener? The showdown at Purdue could be huge. Still, the quality of the Badgers' bowl figures to be determined by back-to-back games in November; at home against Penn State and at lowa.

-Comments and predictions by Sporting News

BLOG ALERT

blow it, Bret. Don't

let the Badgers slip back to the pack. Don't think it can't happen. This isn't an elite program. Barry Alvarez was the ultimate cult of personality. This team could get ordinary quickly.

Feeling any pressure, Bret?'

For more of
Tom Dienhart's take
on Wisconsin, go to
www.sportingnews.com

SCOUTING THE BADGERS

Views from a pro scout or an opposing coach

what saved their bacon last year.

I don't know much about Bret Bielema.
I don't think you can say this guy has earned the right to be the head coach because he coordinated a lights-out defense. I think it's a risk, but

that's me. What
do I know? But his hiring surprised me. Barry (Alvarez) had
a lot of assistants with him a long time, but sometimes
you're around a guy too much. He knows too much
about you. Maybe he didn't know enough about
(Bielema), and maybe that's why he went
with him. ... I think John Stocco is the
most underrated quarterback in the
league. He's the X-factor for them. But

they're Wisconsin. They want to pound you up front and run the football at you. RB Brian Calhoun was an

exceptional talent, especially after he broke the line of scrimmage.

I don't think they have that kind of talent there, so who knows what their running game is gonna look like? Brandon Williams probably was the most underrated receiver in the league, but he's gone. But they've always recruited well at receiver. So I suspect they'll have somebody step up and be a productive guy who we don't even know about. ... Everybody says OT Joe Thomas was that good. But I watched tape on him, and to be honest, I didn't think there was much difference between him and their other tackle. ... They are athletic in the secondary with guys who can break on the ball and make plays on the ball. Otherwise, their defense is full of phone booth guys. ... Up front, they always have hard-playing guys who aren't out of position. We like DE Matthew Shaughnessy. Wish we had him. ... The more physical it is, the more they like it. The linebackers are the same. But they fell off a long way defensively last year. Their offense is



INSIDE THE

Backfield John Stocco is equal parts
Darrell Bevell, Mike Samuel, Brooks Bollinger
and Jim Sorgi. And that's not bad. Average
arm and all, Stocco is 19-6 as a starter as he
enters his third season at quarterback. He's a
competitor who manages the game well but
needs to be more consistent and control
tough situations better. Still, don't be shocked
if you see Stocco in the NFL.

The backup situation looks stable, with Tyler Donovan and redshirt freshman Dustin

Sherer. Donovan is athletic and probably could play another position. The staff likes Sherer's presence.

Running back is a mess. Brian Calhoun declared for the NFL draft after playing just one season at Wisconsin following his

transfer from Colorado. The diminutive speedster became just the second Big Ten player to rush for more than 1,000 yards and have more than 500 yards receiving in a season; that's a lot of production to replace. Booker Stanley was booted from the team for off-field problems, further muddying the picture.

The only veteran in a four-man race is Jamil Walker, a big, physical runner. The job could be his to lose. The future might belong to one of three redshirt freshmen: Jerry Butler, P.J. Hill and Dion Foster. Hill is the most physical. Foster is a shifty runner who can make people miss. Butler is a scatback. Hill came on during the spring.

Matt Bernstein—the best fullback in the Big Ten last year—is gone. But Bret Bielema likes Chris Pressley, who isn't simply a brute.

Receivers Playmakers are needed with Brandon Williams and Jonathan Orr gone. They combined for 99 receptions and 14 touchdowns last season. Now is the time for Jarvis Minton to shine. Bielema thinks Minton has as much potential as Orr and Williams. Minton needs to be a big-play threat to give the running game breathing room.

Shifty Marcus Randle El, Antwaan's little

brother, is another option. Former walk-on Luke Swan is the best route-runner. Keep an eye on incoming freshmen Xavier Harris and Isaac Anderson, but the best newcomer could be native son Lance Kendricks, who's big and fast.

The staff hopes the move of defensive end
Travis Beckum and linebacker Andy Crooks
compensates for the loss of tight end Owen
Daniels. Beckum and Crooks have much to
learn but are athletic. Veterans
Garrett Graham, Dave Peck and

PHILOSOPHY

Don't expect Bret Bielema to make many changes. This offense always will be based around power running. Bielema preaches controlling time of possession, and a team does that by running the ball. But in recent years, the Badgers have opened their offense, developing a dangerous passing game that is based around play-action passes. Look for that to continue this season.

PLAYER

The bellwether of this program always is the offensive line. Everyone knows

LT Joe Thomas is a star. But **Kraig Urbik** isn't far behind. He acquitted himself well as a redshirt freshman starter at right tackle last year, helping clear the way for a record-setting offense. Urbik, who figures to move to guard, has the size and power to be a prototypical Badgers lineman. With improved strength and technique, he could be Wisconsin's next great blocker.

Sean Lewis also will try to take advantage of the opportunity. Whatever happens, the position is not emphasized in Madison.

Line An overhaul is needed because three starters are gone. But there's hope. In fact, there might not be a better left tackle in the nation than Joe Thomas, who is healthy after injuring his right knee in the Capital One Bowl. NFL scouts told Wisconsin coaches that Thomas would have been picked anywhere from No. 5 through No. 15 overall in the 2006 draft, but the NFL had to wait because of the injury. Right tackle looks set with massive Eric VandenHeuvel. He has the power to be a classic right tackle. That pushes Kraig Urbik to right guard, where he worked in the spring. Urbik impressed the staff with his play as a redshirt freshman last season.

Things get murky after that with the losses of center Donovan Raiola and guards Matt Lawrence and Jason Palermo. Promising Andy Kemp looks set at left guard. There are a few possibilities at center, but Marcus Coleman appears to be the best option. Every solid line starts with a strong interior, which means this area needs to come together quickly. And depth needs to be developed.

	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
411	WR	13	Marcus Randle El	5-10	191	Jr.
100		15	Luke Swan	6-0	200	Jr.
	LT	72	Joe Thomas 🛦	6-8	306	Sr.
		64	Danny Kaye	6-8	317	Jr.
	LG	75	Andy Kemp 🛦	6-6	321	So.
		79	Jeffrey Stehle	6-6	299	Fr.
ш	C	65	Marcus Coleman	6-6	314	Jr.
		60	Luke Knauf	6-4	314	Jr.
	RG	63	Kraig Urbik 🔺	6-6	321	So.
		70	Andrew Weininger	6-6	314	Jr.
	RT	71	Eric VandenHeuvel 🛦	6-7	326	So.
		62	Mike Van Someren	6-7	320	Jr.
TEND -	TE	82	Sean Lewis	6-7	245	So.
1		43	Andy Crooks	6-3	264	Jr.
	WR	19	Paul Hubbard	6-4	218	Jr.
		88	Jarvis Minton	6-1	202	Jr.
	QB	7	John Stocco 🛦	6-2	206	Sr.
		12	Tyler Donovan	6-1	190	Jr.
	RB	39	P.J. Hill	5-11	235	Fr.
		42	Jamil Walker	6-2	221	Jr.
	FB	44	Chris Pressley A	6-1	268	Jr.
TO SEE		34	Bill Rentmeester	6-0	254	So.
38	K	10	Taylor Mehlhaff	5-11	185	Jr.
	KR	88	Jarvis Minton	6-1	202	Jr.
		MG COMP	starters in bold *True fres	hman		



Line Bret Bielema says he thinks this is the strongest part of the defense because numerous personnel got playing time when injuries piled up in 2005.

Instead of being physical, this unit relies on athletic ability. And no player typifies that more than end Matthew Shaughnessy, who was impressive as a true freshman string bean last year. Bielema says Shaughnessy practices as hard as any player he has seen. Shaughnessy is a pass-rushing terror who has a big future despite suffering a knee injury late last season. Behind him is Jamal Cooper, a pass-rusher deluxe whose '05 season was cut short by a knee injury. Cooper was one of the team's most productive players in '04 and was playing at a high level before his injury. Neither Shaughnessy nor Cooper took part in spring drills, but each should be OK.

The other starter figures to be underrated Joe Monty, the team's best end against the run. He's not a great athlete but is technically strong. Like Monty, backup Kurt Ware is a bluecollar end with bulk who is strong at the point of attack.

Wisconsin coaches can't help but smile when talking about tackle Nick Hayden, who's coming off a stellar season. Another key component is Justin Ostrowski, a strong run-stuffer. Ostrowski entered last season as the team's best tackle prospect but played in just five games because of a leg injury. Jason Chapman might be an even better pass rusher than Shaughnessy and Cooper, which says a lot considering Chapman is a tackle. Mike Newkirk turned heads in five starts last year as a redshirt freshman.

Linebackers The staff has a lot to sort out, but one thing is sure: Middle man Mark Zalewski is a leader and the team's best linebacker. He paced the team with 12¹/₂ tackles for loss in '05 and is the team's most athletic linebacker, best in coverage and strongest against the run. Backup Elijah Hodge, the brother of former lowa star linebacker Abdul Hodge, came on last season. Hodge has the confidence

of the coaches and is strong against the run.

The outside positions are works in progress. DeAndre Levy made strides last year on the weak side backing up the departed Dontez Sanders, who led the team in tackles. Levy is athletic and can cover a lot of ground, much like Jonathan Casillas, who began his career at safety. Casillas appears primed to man the strong side in place of LaMarr Watkins, one of just four seniors

who got significant.

PHILOSOPHY

The Badgers play a 4-3; they mix coverages and aren't afraid to blitz. Because Wisconsin has a veteran line, it won't need to blitz as often this year. That's good because the Badgers don't want to leave their young cornerbacks on an island too often. Bret Bielema believes in being aggressive and will look for four things from his defense: third-down efficiency, stopping the run, points and takeaways.

BREAKO J PLAYER

DE Matthew Shaughnessy is a rangy pass rusher whose relentless style made him stand out as a true freshman. The coaches knew they couldn't redshirt him despite his lack of bulk. Shaughnessy didn't disappoint the staff, developing into a troublesome pass rusher for opponents before suffering a knee injury against lowa late in the season. He finished with 7½ tackles for loss and 2½ sacks.

JAY DROWNS / TSN

playing time last season.

Secondary The Badgers should be better because of the growing pains suffered last season by a young unit, but some veterans must be replaced.

Cornerbacks Jack Ikegwuonu and Allen Langford both made several starts last season and figure to be the top options to take over for departed Levonne Rowan and Brett Bell. Ikegwuonu and Allen played big roles in Wisconsin leading the Big Ten in turnover margin. Each covers well, but Langford is better against the run. Should either player falter, coaches would turn to Zach Hampton and Ben Strickland.

The coaches say they feel good about strong safety Joe Stellmacher, a headhunter who ranked second on the team in tackles last season. Roderick Rogers is a looming force at free safety and could emerge as one of the Big Ten's best. The staff likes his athletic ability and coverage skills. Joshua Neal, a special teams demon, Shane Carter and Johnny White bolster depth.

	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	LE 95 J		Joe Monty	6-2	258	Sr.
1		34	Kurt Ware	6-4	279	Jr.
	LT	91	Jason Chapman 🔺	6-4	283	So.
		99	Justin Ostrowski	6-5	308	Jr.
	RT	96	Nick Hayden 🔺	6-5	310	Jr.
		54	Mike Newkirk	6-3	251	So.
	RE	92	Matthew Shaughnessy 🔺	6-6	227	So.
		5	Jamal Cooper 🛦	6-4	206	Jr.
	WLB	7	DeAndre Levy	6-3	220	So.
27		23	Paul Joran	6-3	228	Sr.
	MLB	41	Mark Zalewski 🔺	6-2	236	Sr.
		52	Elijah Hodge	6-1	220	Fr.
	SLB	46	Jonathan Casillas	6-2	208	So.
1		18	Jammar Crane	6-1	199	So.
	LCB	17	Allen Langford	5-11	188	So.
		26	Zach Hampton	5-10	171	Sr.
	FS	22	Roderick Rogers 🛦	6-2	186	Sr.
	-	25	Shane Carter	6-2	199	So.
\leq	SS	16	Joe Stellmacher 🛦	6-1	222	Sr.
-		4	Johnny White	6-2	223	Sr.
	RCB	27	Jack Ikegwuonu	6-1	199	So.
-	- 1	3	Ben Strickland	5-9	176	Jr.
	P	94	Ken DeBauche	6-2	221	Jr.
	PR	13	Marcus Randle El	5-10	191	Jr.
			starters in bold *True fres spect	hman		



Line This rarely—if ever—is a strength in Evanston. Why? Because it's difficult to find good players who are big, quick—and smart.

If there's a strength, it's the ends. Kevin Mims was impressive as a redshirt freshman. He's a decent athlete and the best pass rusher of the group. But the guy who has coaches jacked is reserve Corey Wootton, who started early last year as a true freshman before suffering a neck injury. Wootton has long arms and athletic ability that rarely is seen in these parts. When he grows into his body, look out. David Ngene, who battles asthma issues, has more tools than workmanlike Mark Koehn at the other end.

There is no "wow" guy at tackle. And the departure of Barry Cofield and loss of Trevor Schultz to academics muddies the situation for a defense that ranked last in the Big Ten in 2005. Coaches hope and pray that John Gill becomes a man after showing promise as a true freshman. Gill is strong, physical and fast, but he needs to mature and become an every-down player. Youngsters Adam Hahn and Keegan Kennedy and need to take the next step. Hahn is strong and physical and is coming off a promising spring. Best-case scenario: Gill and Co. hold their gaps and don't get pushed off the line.

Linebackers This could be the defense's strongest unit. Yes, even without middle linebacker/madman Tim McGarigle, who led the team in tackles last year and has departed.

Hopes are buoyed by the return of starters Adam Kadela and Nick Roach. In the spring, Kadela moved from the strong side to the middle. He's strong, shows solid instincts and is the team's best linebacker against the

Roach is coming off a disappointing season

that was marred by injuries. He's the most athletic linebacker and the group's best hitter. Coach Randy Walker thinks Roach is as talented as anyone he has had. But can Roach stay healthy? Demetrius Eaton is the man on the strong side. His speed and athletic ability make him a better fit there than Kadela. There's also Campbell Black, a fifth-year senior with savvy.

Walker played a smattering of true freshmen linebackers on special teams last year in hopes of grooming them for the future. That future might be now for Mike Dinard, Prince Kwateng and Malcolm Arrington.

Secondary This unit is a mixed bag. There's talent at cornerback but little consistency and experience. Cornerback Marquice Cole is equal parts good/bad. He lacks size but rates as the

size but rates as the team's best athlete and top cover man. The diminutive Cole led the team with five picks last season.

The other corner spot is dicey. Eric Peterman moved to cornerback from receiver this spring and

emerged as a starter. He's athletic and has size, but he's never played the position. Deante Battle could claim his old starting spot if he gets back into school after working on academics. Former running back Gerard Hamlett made the switch to defense and might help

shore up depth.

Coaches were relieved to see strong safety Bryan Heinz play in the Sun Bowl after he missed most of last season because of a knee injury he suffered in the preseason. He's a savvy leader of the secondary. A former walkon, Heniz covers better than advertised, is bright and gets everyone lined up correctly.

Brendan Smith appears ticketed for free safety after starting in Heinz's strong safety spot most of last season.

Smith has skills similar to Heinz's. Backup Reggie McPherson had his ups last year, but he had more downs. If improved, McPherson could push Smith.

PHILOSOPHY

It's a traditional 4-3 scheme that continues to search for an identity. The linemen are asked to occupy blockers so the linebackers can make tackles. Zone coverages are the norm. A scarcity of athletes makes this a conservative unit that rarely gambles with blitzes or unconventional pressure packages. When the Wildcats gamble, bad things usually happen.

BREAROUTPLAYER

The staff was so intrigued by E Corey Wootton that he played out of the gate as a true freshman before a neck injury ended his season. The 6-6 Wootton has a monstrous wingspan and could be the rarest of commodities at Northwestern: a defensive terror. No doubt, Northwestern needs Wootton to augment a pass rush that was among the worst in the Big Ten in 2005. If Wootton is as good as expected, it would create space for fellow linemen.

	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	E	95	Kevin Mims	6-3	280	So.
		99	Corey Wootton	6-6	255	So.
	T	79	Adam Hahn	6-4	290	Fr.
-		92	Keegan Kennedy	6-3	280	So.
	T	70	John Gill	6-3	295	So.
		58	Warren Anderson	6-3	270	Jr.
1	E	72	David Ngene	6-3	260	Jr.
		91	Mark Koehn	6-3	270	Jr.
er er	WLB	38	Nick Roach A	6-2	245	Sr.
-		82	Chris Malleo	6-3	225	Jr.
SIRC &	MLB	43	Adam Kadela 🔺	6-2	245	Jr.
		31	Mike Dinard	6-2	230	So.
	SLB	42	Demetrius Eaton	6-2	250	Sr.
		37	Campbell Black	6-3	225	Sr.
	LCB	20	Marquice Cole A	5-10	185	Sr.
		35	Ryan Black	5-10	180	Jr.
	SS	21	Bryan Heinz	6-2	215	Sr.
		45	Ben Rothrauff	5-10	195	Jr.
	FS	39	Brendan Smith	6-1	215	So.
1200		27	Reggie McPherson	6-1	190	Jr.
100	RCB	10	Eric Peterman	6-1	200	So.
		6	Cory Dious	5-9	170	Sr.
	P	15	Slade Larscheid	6-1	210	Sr.
	PR	20	Marquice Cole	5-10	185	Sr.
			starters in bold *True	freshman		

NSIDE THE CONTRACTOR OF THE CO

Backfield It's a three-man race to replace Brett Basanez, who leaves as one of the school's best-ever passers for what was the Big Ten's top offense in 2005. The job likely won't be decided until the

end of fall camp.

C.J. Bacher has a Big Ten-caliber arm and is mobile, but he's a reluctant runner. Redshirt freshmen Mike Kafka and Andrew Brewer also are in the mix. Kafka is quick and has a good arm, but he had limited experience playing quarterback in high school. He needs to learn how to see the field better. Brewer is the best athlete of the trio. Other position coaches would love to have him if he doesn't work out at quarterback.

The team's top two backs suffered injuries early last year, which opened the door for Tyrell Sutton. Sutton slammed it shut by rushing for 1,474 yards and catching 44 passes to win Sporting News' Freshman of the Year honors. Sutton is a gnat who can change directions on a whim because of his vision, quickness and instincts. The Wildcats have devised schemes that will feature Sutton lined up wide to take advantage of his pass-catching ability.

Brandon Roberson is built like Sutton but is faster. Roberson has good hands, but he can't change direction as quickly as Sutton. Terrell Jordan returns for a fifth year after his '05 season was ruined by hamstring problems.

Receivers Losing Mark Philmore and Jonathan Fields hurts, but Shaun Herbert, one of the Big Ten's most underrated players, returns. Herbert doesn't dazzle with athletic ability, but he is consistent and does everything well.

Ross Lane has the best skills among the wideouts, but he's also the most undisciplined when it comes to details like route running. But he is sneaky-fast, has good hands and is unflappable.



Northwestern needs Kim
Thompson to become a deep threat.
For two years, coaches have felt
Thompson was the team's most
talented receiver. He's big and fast,
but injuries and indifference have
held him back. Rasheed Ward
showed promise as a true freshman
and could start.

If tight ends Erryn Cobb and Frayne Abernathy could step up as pass-catchers, it would allow the team to rely less on four-

wideout sets. Still, tight ends in this offense typically just block.

PHILOSOPHY

This is the quintessential one-back, spread offense that creates gaps in defenses by stretching them horizontally and vertically. The key to making things click is having a smart decision-maker under center. But Northwestern runs as well out of the spread as it passes, giving the Wildcats balance that is difficult to contain. And the 'Cats often are more physical than given credit for.

BRIAROUTPLAYER

C Trevor Rees turned heads as a true freshman starter in 2003 and continued to develop the next year. Coach Randy Waiker thought he might have been Northwestern's best lineman entering '05, but Rees left school to work on academics. He's back and poised to become one of the best centers in the Big Ten on a veteran line that should make the Wildcats more physical this fall.

Line Four starters are back, and that's not counting center Trevor Rees, who returns after leaving for academic reasons last year.

The only hole to plug is a big one: Zach Striefs right tackle spot. Coaches plan to fill the void with last year's starting center, Austin Matthews. He's a natural tackle with long arms and good feet. Left tackle Dylan Thiry isn't great now, but he could be. Thiry has a long wingspan and is tough to get around.

Coach Randy Walker thinks Ryan Keenan can be as good as any right guard in the Big Ten. A former defensive player and the resident team strong man, Keenan learned the ropes as a first-time starter last year. Joe Tripodi is back at left guard. He never figures to be an all-star, but Tripodi plays hard and is reliable.

Rees might have been the team's best lineman in '04. He won't win body-building contests and lacks ideal size, but he has quick feet and balance. But best of all: He locks on blocks and keeps his feet.

Depth looks solid. Top backup Joel Belding is versatile and has starting experience.

			Depart of	ونيا		
	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	WR	3	Shaun Herbert	6-1	200	Sr.
		32	Sam Cheatham	5-10	200	Jr.
	WR	8	Rasheed Ward .	5-10	175	So.
		9	Ross Lane	6-3	190	So.
	LT	74	Dylan Thiry 🛦	6-8	315	Jr.
		65	Thomas Bemenderfer	6-5	280	Fr.
	LG	51	Joe Tripodi	6-3	310	Sr.
		77	Adam Crum	6-1	295	Jr.
130	C	50	Trevor Rees 🛦	6-2	285	Jr.
		52	Joel Belding	6-3	300	So.
) in bi	RG	56	Ryan Keenan 🛦	6-4	290	Sr.
		76	Desmond Taylor	6-3	275	Fr.
	RT	62	Austin Matthews	6-5	305	Jr.
HILL.	155	78	Kurt Mattes	6-6	285	Fr.
	TE	44	Erryn Cobb	6-1	255	Sr.
		49	Frayne Abernathy	6-3	245	Jr.
CAR	WR	84	Kim Thompson 🛦	6-4	195	Jr.
		87	Tonjua Jones	6-2	185	Jr.
	QB	18	C.J. Bacher	6-2	200	So.
		13	Mike Kafka	6-3	205	Fr.
4	RB	19	Tyrell Sutton A	5-9	190	So.
A PART	100	11	Brandon Roberson	5-9	200	Jr.
	K	93	Joel Howells	6-4	225	Sr.
	KR	23	Gerard Hamlett	5-10	190	So.
	Retu	rning	starters in bold *True fro	eshman		
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13	out
	Nov. 18 *Thursda
2 3	Nov. 11
	Nov. 4
	Oct. 28
	Oct. 21
	Oct. 14
-100	Oct. 7
MATERIAL PROPERTY.	Sept. 30
-	Sept. 10
	Sept. 9 Sept. 16
9	Aug. 31

Date	Opponent	What it means	SN pick
Aug. 31	at Miami (Ohio)*	How many times has Northwestern lost a game like this? Too many. It could happen again.	L
Sept. 9	New Hampshire	This is a good I-AA team. Still, it's a I-AA team—and Northwestern will run, run, run to victory.	W
Sept. 16	Eastern Michigan	Ex-Northwestern assistant Jeff Genyk visits his old boss, says "hello" and gets his butt kicked.	W
Sept. 22	at Nevada^	Warning: Playing on the road against an underrated passing team coming off a bowl is hazardous	s. W
Sept. 30	at Penn State	The Wildcats can play with the Nittany Lions. A close loss might be the best-case scenario.	L
Oct. 7	at Wisconsin	Northwestern has split the last four in Madison. Hmmm. This might be a chance to steal another	. L
Oct. 14	Purdue	This shapes up as the key game. Winning a third in a row over the Boilers will be tough.	L
Oct. 21	Michigan State	Another big game—and likely must-win—for this season to be considered a success.	W
Oct. 28	at Michigan	Forget about winning; this trip is all about avoiding injuries and maintaining morale. Next!	L
Nov. 4	at Iowa	The Wildcats stole one last year, and the Hawkeyes haven't forgotten. This one could get ugly.	L
Nov. 11	Ohio State	First Michigan, then Iowa, now Ohio State? Look on the bright side wait, there is no bright sid	e. L
Nov. 18	Illinois	Bowl hopes could float on this one. The Wildcats have beaten the Illini three straight times.	W
*Thursday	^Friday		

The bad news begins with the absence of Indiana and Minnesota, and there's no breathing room on the most underrated nonconference schedule in the Big Ten. Any faint bowl hopes figure to be dashed during a stretch of three consecutive road games that begins in late September. If that doesn't do it, trips to Ann Arbor and Iowa City will.

-Comments and predictions by Sporting News

BLOG ALERT

'You don't want to admit it, but

deep down in your JoePaloving heart you know it:

> Randy Walker is the Big Ten's best coach. If the Wildcats make a bowl this season. it'll be amazing. Don't we say that this time each year? Sure

> > we do.' For more of Tom Dienhart's take on

Northwestern, go to www.sportingnews.com

offers and Northwestern. It's not like they had to beat anybody Views from a pro scout or an opposing coach

to get him. ... I think their offensive line has replaced Wisconsin's as the "most outstanding holders" in the league. I think they're big, fat, clumsy and

The big X-factor is who they play at quarterback. I thought clearly QB Brett

Basanez was the most valuable player in the league last year. He was so good with

his audible checks, so good with his execution, so good as a leader. You don't lose

that guy and not lose something. ... They got lucky they found a running back that

they didn't even know they had in Tyrell Sutton. I thought he was very good. I don't ever remember watching him on recruiting tape. I don't think

he made it into our film room. I think he got eliminated on the

measurements. He wasn't a highly recruited kid. He had MAC

hold the crap out of you. ... They're better at receiver than I remember them being. I think it's the best group of receivers they've had since we've been playing them. All of Northwestern's skill guys are tough, including WR Shaun Herbert. They get after you. They are well-coached. ... They won't ever be good on defense. Why? They can't run. They try to keep the ball in front of them. That's probably smart because they don't have the ability to run with you. They'd like you to run the ball against them because their down guys are pretty physical. If you do run, you don't force them to play in space, and you're playing into their hand.





Heck, one is going on in Evanston, III.
Consider this: Northwestern has
finished .500 or better in conference play each
of the past three seasons. That hasn't been
done since a six-year run from 1936-41. There's
more: The Wildcats' 14-10 Big Ten record the
past three seasons ranks fifth in the league.
And Northwestern has won at least four
Big Ten games each year over that span, which
never had happened in Evanston.

All this from a program whose recruiting classes annually rank at or near the bottom of the Big Ten. That's where Northwestern also ranks in categories such as facilities,

Now, the tough

coaches' salaries and fan support.

part: continuing the magic. Coach Randy Walker's biggest task is replacing quarterback Brett Basanez, who made walking on water seem easy after taking the program to new heights. And transforming water into wine looks like a breeze compared to Task No. 2: upgrading the defense from awful to average.

But miracles do happen.

Story: Tom Dienhart, Sporting News

Photo: RB Tyrell Sutton

ALIONAL RAMA

Poverall: 5-7 Conference: 2-6/9th

NORTHWESTERN PARTIES

RUSHING		Att		Yds.	Avg.	TD
Javon Ringer		122		817	6.7	5
Jehuu Caulcrick		89		478	5.4	7
Drew Stanton		121		338	2.8	4
PASSING	Comp.	Att.	Pct	. Yds	. TD	Int.
Drew Stanton	236	354	66.	7 3,07	7 22	12
RECEIVING		Red		Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jerramy Scott		49		722	14.7	4
Matt Trannon		40		573	14,3	4
Kerry Reed		31		438	14.1	5
Terry Love		28		430	15.4	3
KICK/PUNT RET	URNS		No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Demond Williams			17	431	25.4	1
Terry Love		1	10	87	8.7	0
KICKING		XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
John Goss		28	28	4	11	40
Matt Haughey		11	11	1	5	14
TACKLES	Solo	Assis	ts	Total	TFL	Yds.
David Herron	38	27		65	4,	/15
Kaleb Thornhill	32	31		63	4	/15
SirDarean Adams	43	17		60	5/	29
Greg Cooper	32	16		48	3,	/10

KEY LOSSES

Offense WR Kyle Brown (36 rec., 546 yards, 2 TDs); C Chris Morris; G Gordon Niebylski; RB Jason Teague (78 att., 420 yards, 4 TDs); T Stefon Wheeler.

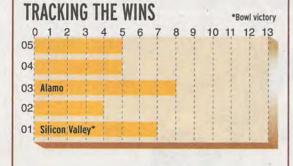
Defense E Michael Bazemore (48 tackle); T Brandon McKinney (25 tackles); T Domata Peko (53 tackles, 3 tackles for loss); S Eric Smith (team-high 101 tackles); CB Ashton Watson (29 tackles).

2005 TEAM STATISTICS

	Average	Rank
Rushing offense	201.8	3rd Big Ten/20th nation
Rushing defense	164.6	7th/76th
Passing offense	295.5	2nd/11th
Passing defense	244.9	6th/85th
Total offense	497.3	2nd/5th
Total defense	409.5	5th/87th
Turnover differential	-1	8th/T65th

2005 RESULTS (5-6, 2-6/9th Big Ten)

Kent State	W, 49-14	Northwestern	L, 49-14
Hawaii	W, 42-14	Indiana	W, 46-15
at Notre Dame	W, 44-41 (OT)	at Purdue	L, 28-21
at Illinois	W, 61-14	at Minnesota	L, 41-18
Michigan	L, 34-31 (OT)	Penn State	L, 31-22
at Ohio State	L. 35-24		



	ARTANS ROS	Ht./Wt.	CI.	Exp.	Hometown/previous school
12	Clay Charles	6-1/198	Fr.	ARTERBAI RS	CKS McCall, Idaho/McCall-Donnelly
7	Clay Charles Brian Hoyer	6-2/210	So.	1L	North Olmsted, Ohio/St. Ignatius
14	Domenic Natale	6-1/196	Fr.	RS	Warren, N.J./The Hun School
5	Drew Stanton	6-3/230	Sr.	3L	Farmington Hills, Mich./Harrison
16	John Van Dam	6-3/221	Jr.	SO	East Lansing, Mich./Okemos
30	Johnn Cauloriek	6-0/245		NNING BA	
20	Jehuu Caulcrick A.J. Jimmerson	6-0/245 5-10/210	Jr. Fr.	RS	Findley Lake, N.Y./Clymer St. Louis/Hazelwood Central
24	Brett Kahn	5-9/175	Jr.	1L	Trenton, Mich./Northwood University
23	Javon Ringer '	5-9/202	So.	1L	Dayton, Ohio/Chaminade-Julienne
			RECEIV	ERS/TIGH	
82	Ryan Allison	6-3/215	So.	1L	Lake Orion, Mich./Lake Orion
84	Deon Curry	6-1/210	So.	1L	Oakland Township, Mich./Detroit Country Day
80	Kellen Davis (TE) Carl Grimes	6-6/247 5-9/177	Jr. So.	2L 1L	Adrian, Mich./Adrian Detroit/St. Martin De Porres
81	Dwayne Holmes (TE)	6-0/275	So.	1L	Detroit/Henry Ford
18	Terry Love	5-11/172	Jr.	2L	Bellwood, III./Proviso East
2	Diego Oquendo	5-9/180	So.	1L	Staten Island, N.Y./Tottenville
15	Kerry Reed	6-2/196	Sr.	1L	Miami/Coffeyville C.C.
87	Kyle Sackrider (TE)	6-2/245	Jr.	50	Battle Creek, Mich./Harper Creek
32 6	Jerramy Scott Matt Trannon	5-10/186 6-6/227	Sr.	3L	Jupiter, Fla./Dwyer Flint, Mich./Northern
91	Travis Willard (TE)	6-2/236	Fr.	RS	Lake Odessa, Mich./Lakewood
-	mans milata (12)	0 1/100		NSIVE LIN	
57	Rocco Cironi (T/G)	6-6/295	Fr.	RS	Warren, Ohio/Warren G. Harding
75	Pete Clifford (G)	6-7/320	Jr.	2L	Salem, N.H./Bridgton Academy
74	Kyle Cook (G)	6-3/295	Sr.	3L	Macomb, Mich./Dakota
66	Mike Gyetvai (T)	6-7/304	Jr.	2L	Old Castle, Ontario/Sandwich Secondary
68 73	Tom Kaczmarek (T) Roland Martin (G)	6-5/310 6-5/324	So.	1L 1L	London, Ontario/Catholic Central Chicago/Harper
54	John Masters (C)	6-4/299	Jr.	1L	Carmel, Ind./Carmel
79	Jesse Miller (T)	6-6/306	So.	1L	Somerville, N.J./Somerville
64	Brendon Moss (T)	6-6/281	Fr.	RS	Saline, Mich./Fork Union Military Academy (Va.)
65	Joel Nitchman (C)	6-3/303	Fr.	RS	Kalamazoo, Mich./Hackett Catholic Central
76	Mike Schmeding (T)	6-8/308	Fr.	RS	Rutherford, N.J./St. Mary's
71	Kenny Shane (G)	6-5/325	Jr.	50	Indianapolis/Pima C.C.
77	Daniel Zynn (G)	6-2/330	Sr.	IL NSIVE LIN	South Pasadena, Calif./College of the Canyons
58	Reggie Graham (E)	6-4/215	Fr.	RS	Homewood, Ala./Homewood
98	Bobby Jones (T)	6-4/304	Jr.	SO	Yankton, S.D./North Dakota State College of Science
95	Justin Kershaw (E)	6-4/252	So.	1L	Columbus, Ohio/Reynoldsburg
47	Brandon Long (E)	6-4/237	So.	1L	Canton, Ohio/GlenOak
61	Tramonte Pointer (T)	5-10/314	Jr.	50	Flint, Mich./Northern
92 94	Clifton Ryan (T) Jonal Saint-Dic (E)	6-2/304	Sr. Jr.	3L	Saginaw, Mich./Arthur Hill Elizabeth, N.J./Hudson Valley C.C.
93	Nick Smith (E)	6-6/272	Jr.	2L	North Canton, Ohio/GlenOak
17	David Stanton (T)	6-3/291	Sr.	1L	Los Angeles/College of the Canyons
70	Joe Toth (T)	6-2/302	Jr.	2L	Port Charlotte, Fla./Port Charlotte
				NEBACKE	
52	Eric Andino	6-4/238	Jr.	2L	Arlington Heights, III./Buffalo Grove
57 55	Marcus Calverley Adam Decker	5-11/239	So.	SO	East Lansing, Mich./East Lansing
45	Andrew Hawken	6-2/240	Fr.	RS RS	Rochester Hills, Mich./Brother Rice Wyoming, Mich./Grandville
41	David Herron	6-1/252	Sr.	3L	Warren, Ohio/Warren G. Harding
53	Derrick Johnson	5-9/250	Jr.	SO	Southfield, Mich./West Bloomfield
49	Steve Juarez	6-1/233	Sr.	1L	Torrance, Calif./Los Angeles Harbor College
50	Jeff McPherson	6-1/240	So.	SO	Lowell, Mich./Lowell
63	Devin Pritchett	6-2/258	Jr.	1L	Alpharetta, Ga./Centennial
42	Rob Tabatchnick	5-11/192	Jr.	2L	Livingston, N.J./Livingston
43	Kaleb Thornhill	6-1/235	Jr.	ENSIVE B	Lansing, Mich./Eastern
27	SirDarean Adams (FS)	6-0/230	Jr.	2L	Bradenton, Fla./Bayshore
20	Ashley Beaudouin (SS)	6-0/219	Jr.	SO	Lansing, Mich./Eastern
28	Mike Bell (SS)	5-11/186	Jr.	21	Shaker Heights, Ohio/Shaker Heights
35	Kiel Beltinck (S)	5-9/202	Sr.	3L	Mount Pleasant, Mich./Mount Pleasant
29	Greg Cooper (CB)	5-11/192	Sr.	3L	Flint, Mich./Flint Northern
38	Cole Corey (S)	5-10/203	Jr.	2L	Tecumseh, Mich./Tecumseh
26 33	Tom Dance (S) Dan Fortener (CB)	6-1/212	So. Fr.	1L RS	Erie, Pa./Cathedral Prep School Kettering, Ohio/Archbishop Alter
13	Travis Key (CB)	6-1/195 5-10/187	Jr.	2L	Three Rivers, Mich./Three Rivers
14	Cole Malatinsky (SS)	6-0/198	Jr.	SO	Holt, Mich./Holt
34	Jelani Nantambu (CB)	5-9/186	So.	1L	Southfield, Mich./Notre Dame
22	Kyle Rowley (FS)	5-10/207	So.	50	Oxford, Mich./Oxford
37	Ross Weaver (CB)	6-1/201	So.	1L	Southfield, Mich./Southfield
21	Otis Wiley (FS)	6-2/208	So.	11	Flint, Mich./Carman-Ainsworth
9	Demond Williams (CB)	5-9/175	Sr.	1L PECIALIST	Jackson, Ala./Pima C.C.
15	Todd Boleski (K)	6-6/214	So.	1L	Dearborn Heights, Mich./Divine Child
56	Brian Bury (SN)	6-0/243	Sr.	2L	Marion, Ohio/Harding
8	Brandon Fields (P)	6-6/232	Sr.	3L	Toledo, Ohio/St. John's
11	John Goss (K)	6-3/217	Sr.	11.	Grove City, Ohio/Scottsdale C.C.
24	Kevin Hall (P)	6-4/229	Jr.	SO	Temperance, Mich./Bedford
3 26	Matt Haughey (K)	5-9/178	So.	1L	Bridgman, Mich./Bridgman
	Kyle Mayer (K)	6-1/220	Sr.	SO	Grand Haven, Mich./Grand Haven

DROWNS / TSN

JAY

COACHING

There were a couple of changes during the offseason. Dan Enos, a former Michigan State quarterback, returns to coach that position after two years at Cincinnati, and Derrick Jackson arrives from Northern Illinois to take over the defensive line. Michigan State tabbed Purdue quarterbacks

coach Blaine Bennett as assistant head coach/receivers.

Offensive coordinator Dave
Baldwin is a former head coach at
San Jose State who has crafted a
balanced and potent attack.
Though defensive boss Chris
Smeland had success at
Louisville, he has yet to assemble
a big-time unit in East Lansing.

Smith That must change quickly if the

Spartans are going to compete in the Big Ten.

John L. Smith brings great enthusiasm, an off-center approach to life and a say-

what-you-think attitude. The problem is that people are beginning to wonder whether he can coach in the Big Ten and if his staff is up to the challenge, particularly on defense and special teams. The botched field-goal attempt before halftime of last year's game at Ohio State that killed MSU's momentum is hard to forget.

True, the Spartans have had number problems. But last year's 1-6 finish lands on the shoulders of Smith, who could do with a little less personality and a few more wins. If he doesn't make good on the promise he brought from Louisville, he might be gone.

SPECIAL TEAMS

So, you think this was a problem last year? The Spartans made a Big Ten-low 31 percent of their field-goal attempts (5-of-16). Brett Swenson might be the answer, but can the staff trust a true freshman who won't arrive until the fall? At least strong-legged walk-on Todd Boleski showed promise in the spring.

Billed as one of the nation's best punters, Brandon Fields disappointed last year. Still, he has a strong leg and figures to rebound.

The return situation is solid. Demond Williams can go the distance on kickoff returns. He ran one back for a touchdown last year. Terry Love is a solid punt returner, and T.J. Williams is an exciting option. The coverage units need to be tightened, especially the punt coverage.

PDELLET N.C. 7006

National rank 33 Conference rank 5

Name Pos. Ht./wt. Hometown/school

**** Among the nation's top 30 prospects

None

*** Among the nation's top 200 prospects

Ervin Baldwin	DE	6-2/252	Oglesthorpe, Ga./Reedley College (Calif.)
Jason Diehl	OL.	6-3/297	Wyantskill, N.Y./Milford Academy (Conn)
Charlie Gantt	TE	6-4/241	Farmington Hills, Mich./Brother Rice
Eric Gordon	LB	6-0/210	Traverse City, Mich./Traverse City West
Patrick Rigan	DE	6-5/230	Traverse City, Mich./St. Francis
Devin Thomas	WR	6-2/213	Ann Arbor, Mich./Coffeyville C.C. (Kan.)
Ken Tinney	DB	6-1/185	Ansonia, Conn./Milford Academy (Conn.)
	*** Amon	g the nation	's top 500 prospects

Conner Dixon	1	OB	6-4/182	South Park, Pa./South Park
Ashton Henderson		DB	5-11/186	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln
Abre Leggins		DT/OT	6-3/310	Orlando/Evans
Colin Neely		DE	6-1/234	Bethlehem, Pa./Freedom
Brett Swenson		K	5-8/151	Pompano Beach, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas
Nehemiah Warrick		S	6-1/198	Bradenton, Fla./Hutchinson C.C. (Kan.)
T.J. Williams		WR	6-3/182	Tallahassee, Fla./Fork Union Military (Va.)

** Solid Division I prospects

J'Michael Deane	DT	6-5/295	Toronto/Newtonbrook Secondary School
Sam Gardner	TE	6-6/253	Lexington, Ky./Henry Clay
Marcus Hyde	DB	6-0/184	Fostoria, Ohio/Fostoria
Roderick Jenrette	S	6-1/191	Tampa/Chamberlain
Vaughn Martin	DT	6-3/323	London, Ontario/South Secondary
Jon Misch	LB	6-2/210	Waterford, Mich./Orchard Lake St. Mary's
Ogemdi Nwagbuo	DT	6-4/287	San Diego/Southwestern College (Calif.)
Josh Rouse	LB	6-3/202	Newtown, Conn./Valley Forge Military (Pa.)
Enrique Shaw	DB	6-1/188	Lexington, Ky./Lafayette
John Stipek	DT	6-5/250	Macomb Township, Mich./Dakota
David Williams	WR	5-9/165	Monroeville, Pa./Gateway

Biggest get: The Spartans mined the junior college ranks for immediate help. DE Ervin Baldwin de-committed from Kansas State to go to East

Kansas State to go to East Lansing. He's a sack master and was one of the top junior college recruits in the country.

WR Devin Thomas should play this fall. He lacks great speed but runs great routes and gets open.

Biggest miss: The Spartans brought in several kids from Florida for official visits, but few signed. Among those who said "No thanks" were DE Bryant Miller (Auburn), DL Geno Atkins (Georgia) and DT Mike Blanc (Auburn).

Instant impact: The four junior college recruits are expected to see the field quickly. Michigan State also signed four players who attended prep school. The Spartans are excited about their high school stars, including TE Charlie Gantt, LB Eric Gordon and DE Patrick Rigan.

Diamond in the rough: DT/OT Abre Leggins largely went unnoticed through most of the recruiting process. But that changed after coaches watched his senior highlight tape. What they saw was a great technician who has the ability to play at a high level.

Battleground: Michigan
State did well in Michigan,
landing three of the top
four players in the state.
The Spartans also had
some success in Florida
but would have liked to

have reeled in a few more studs from the Sunshine State.

Fun facts: DTs J'Michael Deane and Vaughn Martin flew under most radars because they played in Canada. Most experts north of the border expect them to be stars. ... Michigan State has had kicking problems the past few years, but that should be solved by Brett Swenson, one of the nation's top kickers. ... Jeff Stoutland and Doug Nussmeier were considered the staffs top recruiters this past season. Stoutland is the Spartans' best closer, landing six players in this year's group and making a strong run to be ranked among the nation's top 25 recruiters. However, Nussmeier left for a job with the St. Louis Rams.

-Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

2-MINUTE DRILL WITH GKYLE COOK

The funniest nickname I've ever had: The only real nickname I've ever had was "Cookie Cutter." People have called me "Cookie" forever because of my last name; they added "Cutter" because, after every game, we add up production points for the offensive line for cut blocks and pancake blocks, and that's one of my favorite things to do—cut people.

My breakthrough moment as a college player: 2004 against Wisconsin. They were the No. 4 team in the country, and we beat

them at home. It was a night game, we were unranked; nobody had any faith in us. They had a great defensive line—all of them were supposed to be NFL players—and we ended up with 400-plus rushing yards against them.

My opponents would say the best thing I do is: I'm always there, whenever they turn their back. I'm cutting them, blocking them, staying in their face. I never quit.

My favorite opposing stadium: I'd have to say Ohio State because of the atmosphere.

QUICK HITS

Where they play

Stadium: Spartan (grass, 75,005) Site: East Lansing, Mich. Tickets: 800-467-8283

What they run

Offensive scheme: Spread
Defensive scheme: 4-3/4-2-5

The last time

They won a league title: 1990 (tie) They played in a bowl: 2003

Coaching staff

Head coach: John L. Smith (18-18, 3 years; 128-78 overall, 17 years)

Assistant head coach/receivers:

Ben Sirmans (2nd year)

Blaine Bennett (1st year)
Offensive coordinator/tight ends:
Dave Baldwin (4th year)
Defensive coordinator/safeties:
Chris Smeland (4th year)
Linebackers: Mike Cox (4th year)
Secondary: Chuck Driesbach (2nd year)
Quarterbacks: Dan Enos (1st year,
4th at school)
Defensive line: Derrick Jackson (1st year)
Running backs/special teams:

Offensive line: Jeff Stoutland (7th year)



Line The defense's recent woes largely can be attributed to this unit's inability to generate a pass rush. To wit: The Spartans ranked eighth in the Big Ten with just 16 sacks last season. And Michigan State can't be "soft" at times, as John L. Smith admits it was in 2005.

Smith is counting on Brandon Long to be the "rush" end. He has to step up. A prep linebacker, Long lacks size, but he's the unit's most athletic player and must learn to play with abandon. Backup Jonal Saint-Dic might have been the unit's most pleasant surprise in the spring. The arrival of Ervin Baldwin could change the picture. He's a pass-rusher deluxe who was one of the nation's top junior college recruits. Justin Kershaw will start at "stud" end. He lacks ideal girth but is tough. Reserve Nick Smith missed

spring drills with an injury but has the size for the spot.

The sole returning starter up front, Clifton Ryan, is moving from "stud" end to tackle,



which Smith calls his true position. That makes sense because Ryan possesses the mass to clog the middle. Bobby Jones needs to emerge as part of the rotation. He can do that by playing with more attitude.

The nose tackle spot should go to David Stanton. He has the ability to get into the backfield. Junior college import Ogemdi "OG" Nwagbuo participated in spring drills and showed talent. He'll push Stanton but must limit mental mistakes.

Linebackers This could be a solid area.
Kaleb Thornhill worked sparingly in spring drills while rehabbing an injured knee and shoulder, but Smith is confident he'll be ready. Thornhill is a strong performer in the middle who has battled perpetual health issues. That's why the focus in the spring was developing depth. Steve Juarez is solid, but don't count out redshirt freshman Andrew Hawken and true freshman

Eric Gordon, who participated in spring practice. Hawken starred in the spring game.

The "whip" linebacker spot belongs to David Herron, who is much improved. He has a solid mixture of size, speed and experience. With Seth Mitchell's career done because of a knee injury, redshirt freshman Adam Decker has stepped up. Decker is big enough for Big Ten battles but still is learning the system.

The spring experiment to move "bandit" SirDarean Adams to free safety ended quickly. Good thing. The quick-hitter is best suited to reprise his former role. Backup Tom Dance isn't ready.

Secondary An improved pass rush would go a long way to make life easier for this crew. The unit appeared to come together during the spring and must continue to develop after

allowing more touchdown passes (25) than every Big Ten team except Illinois last season.

The cornerbacks often are left on an island with the safeties crowding the line to stop the run. That makes corner a position to watch for a defense that was disappointing the past two years. After three years at free safety, Greg Cooper was moved to corner in the spring and excelled. His combination of size and speed is intriguing. But he'll have to fight off Ross Weaver, a big corner with experience. There are no doubts at the other spot, which belongs to diminutive Demond Williams. Incoming prep school product Ken Tinney will keep the veterans on their toes, and Cole Corey has displayed promise but battled legal issues in the spring. He also played some at the bandit spot.

One of the biggest spring developments was the emergence of junior college transfer strong safety Nehemiah Warrick. "Nemo" hits hard and plays with abandon. He's a future star. Mike Bell is a solid reserve who doubles as a special teams standout.

Otis Wiley has emerged at free safety, which allowed Adams to stay at bandit.

PHILOSOPHY

John L. Smith, like most coaches, would prefer to attack, but the frequency of such tactics depends on the secondary playing well. One thing that would help the Spartans, who try to crowd the line and dictate an offense's plans, is improved discipline. Missed assignments and costly penalties must be eliminated. But, more than anything, the front four has to generate a pass rush.

BREAROUTPLAYER

SS Nehemiah Warrick began the 2005 season at Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College at cornerback but was switched to safety and became an All-American. He's a ballhawk who can hit with authority and has the ability to handle man-to-man coverage assignments. The Spartans need a sheriff at strong safety, and "Nemo" has the speed and strength to handle the job. By '07, he should contend for all-league honors.

	-	- 65		the same	-	
683	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	E	47	Brandon Long	6-4	237	So.
		94	Jonal Saint-Dic	6-1	272	Jr.
3 1-1	NT	17	David Stanton	6-3	291	Sr.
		99	Ogemdi Nwagbuo	6-4	304	Jr.
	T	92	Clifton Ryan A	6-2	304	Sr.
- 23 - 13		98	Bobby Jones	6-4	304	Jr.
	E	95	Justin Kershaw	6-4	252	So.
1000		93	Nick Smith	6-6	272	Jr.
LLI	MLB	43	Kaleb Thornhill	6-1	235	Jr.
		49	Steve Juarez	6-1	233	Sr.
	WHIP	41	David Herron 🛦	6-1	252	Sr.
Beautopast .		55	Adam Decker	6-2	240	Fr.
	BAN	27	SirDarean Adams	6-0	230	Jr.
1		26	Tom Dance	6-1	212	So.
	CB	29	Greg Cooper	5-11	192	Sr.
		37	Ross Weaver	6-1	201	So.
Part of the last o	FS	21	Otis Wiley	6-2	208	So.
		33	Dan Fortener	6-1	195	Fr.
	SS	3	Nehemiah Warrick 🛦	6-1	204	Jr.
		28	Mike Bell	5-11	186	Jr.
	CB	9	Demond Williams	5-9	175	Sr.
7		38	Cole Corey	5-10	203	Jr
	P	8	Brandon Fields A	6-6	232	Sr.
	PR	18	Terry Love	5-11	172	Jr.
	Retur	ning	starters in bold *True fre	shman		
	A NE	L pro	ospect			
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The Spartans operate a balanced attack with spread components that are suited to quarterback Drew Stanton's ability to throw and run. Michigan State wants to rotate backs, the better to keep them fresh and to put pressure on defenses.

MSU will pass downfield to take advantage

of one of the Big Ten's best group of

receivers. What is needed is better

decision-making by Stanton.

SIDE THE SIDE THE

Backfield Drew Stanton is coming off a solid season in which he completed 66.7 percent of his passes for 3,077 yards. He also threw for 22 touchdowns and ran for 338 yards. But his 12 interceptions were too many and often came in opposing territory, when he tried to force the ball into coverage. Granted, part of his impatience was because of a shaky kicking game, which was so unreliable that Stanton pressed to generate touchdowns. His charge: Be more patient and, therefore, more effective. Coaches were happy Stanton didn't throw a pick during the spring.

Stanton is tough, has size and speed and boasts a strong arm. He has the ability to throw deep and is accurate enough to check down to closer targets. If he combines all of that with a more efficient approach, MSU will score plenty of points.

The running backs are strong. Javon Ringer has giddy-up, and Jehuu Caulcrick can pound defenses. Both can catch. In the spring, redshirt freshman A.J. Jimmerson flashed speed and power. Watch out.

Receivers This unit is deep with talent and proven targets, many of whom have the ability to get downfield.

The starters are Jerramy Scott, Matt Trannon and Terry Love. Scott lacks size but can move. Trannon is recovering from a broken jaw suffered during basketball season.

The angular Trannon needs to be a go-to guy. He can go over the middle, but he needs to be tougher and more consistent. Love lacks size but gets open.

Carl Grimes and Diego Oquendo can make things happen after the catch, and Ryan Allison looks

ready to make a move. Those three and the other veterans will be pushed by a pair of youngsters. John L. Smith is particularly high on Devin Thomas, a junior college import with size who runs swiftly and has especially soft

hands. He should pick up the slack created by Kyle Brown's departure. True freshman T.J. Williams arrived on campus from a prep school in time for spring drills. He's an impressive athlete.

There are two weapons at tight end. Kellen Davis has soft hands and augmented blocking skills. Hulking Dwayne Holmes is a road grader with improving hands who can morph into an H-back.

Line With three starters gone, the Spartans have work to do.

The staff started at the tackle

RREAK NITPLAYER

John L. Smith can't contain himself when he talks about OT Jesse Miller's mobility and describes how Miller dusts all his fellow linemen in sprints. Miller is a deceivingly good athlete for his size (6-6, 306) and showed the versatility to play four different positions in high school. Miller has right tackle to himself and has the skills to be a top performer. In time, he might get a shot at the left side.

spots by moving Mike Gyetvai from the right side—where he started last year—to departed Stefon Wheeler's left spot and giving Gyetvai's spot to Jesse Miller. Both should shine. Gyetvai is the top tackle, but Miller soon might assume that title. He can run and has long arms. Plus, Miller is a mountain of a man and competes hard. He's an excellent pass blocker, but his effort on run blocking must improve. If Tom Kaczmarek's knee,

which kept him out of spring drills, isn't healed, redshirt freshman Rocco Cironi will be a key backup.

Although left guard Kyle
Cook missed spring practice
because of a bad shoulder, he's
expected to be ready. Cook is
the star of the unit. If he can't
go, fast rising Pete Clifford will
step in. With Gordie Niebylski
gone, right guard could be a
trouble position if massive
Roland Martin doesn't emerge

after arriving amid much hype.

John Masters has waited his turn to replace center Chris Morris, the line's leader last year. If Masters struggles, Cook could slide over. But that would hurt depth.

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1	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	WR	6	Matt Trannon 🛦	6-6	227	Sr.
		82	Ryan Allison	6-3	215	So.
	LT	66	Mike Gyetvai 🛦	6-7	304	Jr.
		57	Rocco Cironi	6-6	295	Fr.
	LG	74	Kyle Cook A	6-3	295	Sr.
		75	Pete Clifford	6-7	320	Jr.
	C	54	John Masters	6-4	299	Jr.
STA PA		65	Joel Nitchman	6-3	303	Fr.
1	RG	73	Roland Martin	6-5	324	So.
		77	Daniel Zynn	6-2	330	Sr.
	RT	79	Jesse Miller	6-6	306	So.
		64	Brendon Moss	6-6	281	Fr,
13 3	TE	80	Kellen Davis A	6-6	247	Jr.
1		81	Dwayne Holmes	6-0	275	So.
100-10	WR	18	Terry Love	5-11	172	Jr.
_		15	Kerry Reed	6-2	196	Sr.
Sec.	WR	32	Jerramy Scott	5-10	186	Sr.
1 1 1 1 1		4	Carl Grimes	5-9	177	So.
	QB	5	Drew Stanton A	6-3	230	Sr.
		7	Brian Hoyer	6-2	210	So.
	RB	23	Javon Ringer	5-9	202	So.
		30	Jehuu Caulcrick 🛦	6-0	245	Jr.
	K	15	Todd Boleski	6-6	214	So.
	KR	9	Demond Williams	5-9	175	Sr.
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Date	Opponent	What it means	TSN pick
Sept. 2	Idaho	John L. Smith shakes hands with mentor Dennis Erickson. Then kicks his butt.	W
Sept. 9	Eastern Michigan	Time to build that resume against a hopelessly overmatched MAC team.	W
Sept. 16	at Pitt	The lone tossup non-league game. The outcome will set the tone for the season.	L
Sept. 23	Notre Dame	Beating the Irish usually jump-starts a team. Not Michigan State. Maybe a loss will motivate.	L
Sept. 30	Illinois	Bowl dreams hinge on 3-1 record at home vs. Big Ten teams. And this must be the first win.	W
Oct. 7	at Michigan	You know this will be a tight game. And you know Michigan State will lose.	L
Oct. 14	Ohio State	It likely won't matter if John L. makes another "dang coaching mistake."	L
Oct. 21	at Northwestern	A classic must-win at a place where winning isn't as easy as you'd think.	L
Oct. 28	at Indiana	Will overconfidence be a problem? Better not be. You know the Hoosiers think they can win.	W
Nov. 4	Purdue	A big mental hurdle can be cleared vs. a program that time and again has broken MSU's heart.	W
Nov. 11	Minnesota	Does Sparty have heart? This will be the test—each team might be fighting for its bowl life.	L
Nov. 18	at Penn State	If a win is needed to gain bowl eligibility, Michigan State is in trouble. Big, big trouble.	L

A quick glance shows eight games are winnable. The bad news: Four of those also are very losable. The key nonleague game is at Pitt. A 3-1 home record against Big Ten teams is essential, which makes consecutive November home games against Purdue and Minnesota critical. And one Big Ten road game must be won. Northwestern? Maybe. Indiana? Bingo.

-Comments and predictions by Sporting News

BLOG ALERI

'What in the name of Duffv

Daugherty is going on? Did you know the Spartans have just two bowl seasons this decade? Pathetic. It's time for John L. to give 'em hell. If not, it's gonna get a

> lot hotter in East Lansing.' For more of Tom Dienhart's take on Michigan State,

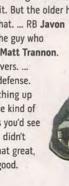
go to www.sportingnews.com

They have upper-level talent on offense and lower-level talent on defense. ... I think they probably were a couple plays from running the table last year and winning the league, but they didn't. ... They should have beaten us. I was scared to death it was gonna become a shootout. ... I don't know what happened to them down the stretch. Honestly, that has been a little bit of their history, going back before John L. Smith got there. It was like that when I was in college. You never know about those guys. ... John L. has

Views from a pro scout or an opposing coach

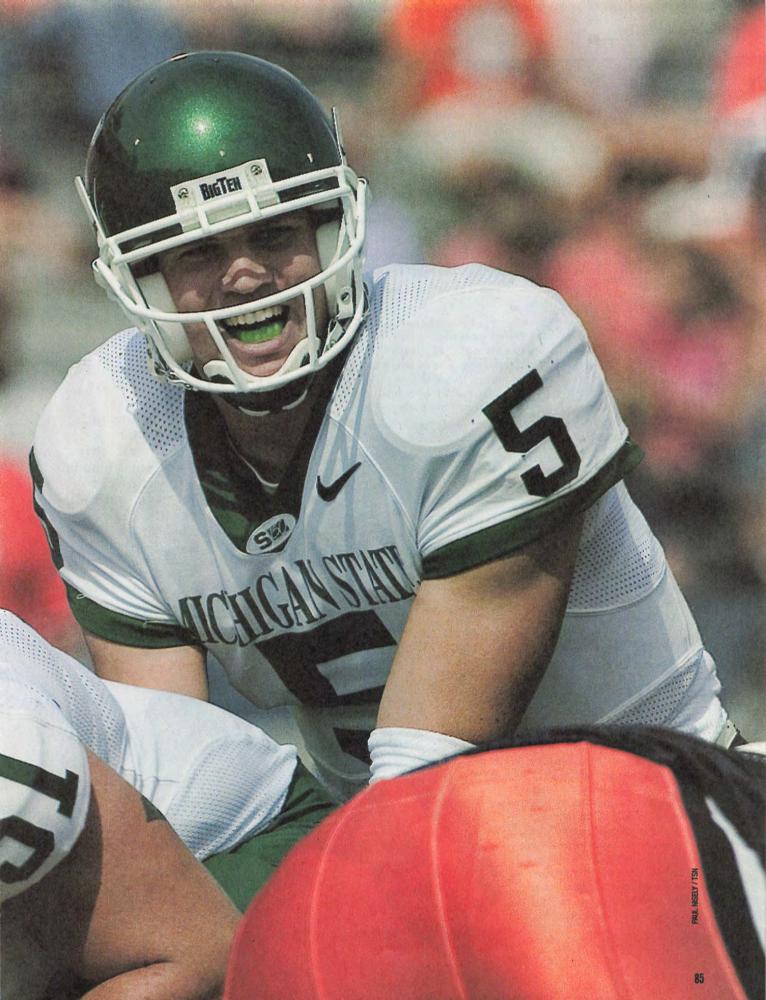
is great for a spread offense. What's tough about him is he'll pull it down and run with it. But the older he gets, the smarter he gets about that. ... RB Javon Ringer is athletic and tough. ... The guy who always got our attention was WR Matt Trannon. He's a big target. I like their receivers. ... I didn't think they were great on defense. I know they had a hard time matching up with us. They didn't have the same kind of dominant players that sometimes you'd see out of a Michigan State team. ... I didn't think their linebackers were all that great, but the secondary and line were good.

been successful, and they have a niche with that offense. ... I like QB Drew Stanton. He has to be one of the best quarterbacks in our league. He has all the tools and



Ringer

AUL NISELY / TSN





he message to John L. Smith was clear after Michigan State's disappointing 5-6 record last season: Win more.

President Lou Anna K. Simon and A.D. Ron Mason supported Smith after the program's second consecutive losing season. But neither was emphatic in the reinforcement of Smith, who enters the fourth year of a six-year deal.

"We expect to go to bowl games, and we expect to compete for championships," Simon says.

In recent years, the Spartans haven't spent considerable time in the race for a Big Ten title, which hasn't been won in East Lansing since 1990.

Last season was particularly frustrating after a 4-0 start was derailed by an overtime home loss to Michigan. MSU then fell apart amidst a torrent of sloppy play, poor special teams and, at times, below-par effort to lose six of its last seven games.

With the squad's depth improving and veteran quarterback Drew Stanton leading what should be a balanced, dangerous offense, there's hope.

A Big Ten title isn't expected, but a bowl is. In fact, it's probably a must.

Story: Michael Bradley
Photo: QB Drew Stanton

MICHGAN STATE SPANISHED STATE SPANISH STATE STAT

RETURNING	LEAD	ERS				
RUSHING		Att.	1	ds.	Avg.	TD
Gary Russell		186	1,	130	6.1	18
Amir Pinnix		78	-	467	6.0	1
Bryan Cupito		24		30	1.2	0
PASSING	Comp.	Att.	Pct	. Yds	. TD	Int.
Bryan Cupito	176	297	59.3	2,530) 19	9
RECEIVING		Rec		Yds.	Avg.	TD
Ernie Wheelwright		37		568	15.4	5
Logan Payne		37		529	14.3	2
Matt Spaeth		26		333	12.8	4
KICK/PUNT RETU	JRNS	1	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Dominic Jones			12	120	10.0	0
Logan Payne			11	106	9.6	0
KICKING		XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Jason Giannini		36	44	13	19	75
TACKLES	Solo	Assist	s	Total	TFL,	Yds.
John Shevlin	57	17		74	9/	29
Jamal Harris	41	22		63	0.5	5/2
Trumaine Banks	51	6		57	4	/10

Sacks: Steve Davis (6) Interceptions: Banks, Mike Sherels, Shevlin (1)

Dominic Jones

KEY LOSSES
Offense WR Jared Ellerson (21 rec., 511 yards, 5 TDs); C Greg
Eslinger; RB Laurence Maroney (team-leading 281 att., team-leading 1,464 yards, 10 TDs); G Mike Nicholson; TE Jarod Posthumus (6 rec., 60 yards); G Mark Setterstrom; WR Jakari Wallace (17 rec., 218 yards; 20 kickoff returns, 540 yards, 27.0 avg.).

0.5/1

Defense E Keith Lipka (46 tackles); E Mark Losli (30 tackles); LB Kyle McKenzie (56 tackles, 4 tackles for loss); T Anthony Montgomery (45 tackles, 6 tackles for loss, 3 sacks); S John Pawielski (team-leading 86 tackles, 4 tackles for loss, 1 int.).

2005 TEAM STATISTICS

	Average	Rank
Rushing offense	273.1	1st Big Ten/3rd nation
Rushing defense	155.6	6th/69th
Passing offense	221.7	8th/63rd
Passing defense	257.1	9th/97th
Total offense	494.8	3rd/7th
Total defense	412.7	6th/90th
Turnover differential	-1	T6th/T59th

2005 RESULTS (7-5, 4-4/7th Big Ten)

at Tulsa	W, 41-10	Ohio State	L, 45-31
Colorado State	W, 56-24	at Indiana	W, 42-21
Florida Atlantic	W. 46-7	Michigan State	W, 41-18
Purdue	W, 42-35 (20T)	at Iowa	L, 52-28
at Penn State	L, 44-14	Virginia*	L, 34-31
at Michigan	W. 23-20	*Music City Bowl	
Wisconsin	L, 38-34		

	RACKING				_	-		10		lowl v	100
(1 2 3	4	5	6	-	8	9	10	17	12	13
05	Music City	1	1	4		1	i	i	i	1	-1
04	Music City		1	1	3	1	1	1	1	-	-
03	Sun*					-	1		1	-	1
	Music City*		-	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1
UL	music city	-	- (-	+		-	-	1	1	1	1
01			1	1	3	1	1	1	1	-	1

	LDEN GOPHEI	Ht /Wt	CI.	Fyn	Hometown/previous school
10.	. Name	Ht./Wt.		Exp.	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O
	Bryan Cupito	6-3/205	Sr.	3L	Cincinnati/McNicholas
	Mike Frankberg	6-0/180	Sr.	SO	Detroit Lakes, Minn./Detroit Lakes
)	Mike Maciejowski	6-3/215	So.	50	Columbus, Ohio/Upper Arlington
	Tony Mortensen	6-3/220	So.	1L	Hutchinson, Minn./Hutchinson
	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	r as loor		INING B	
4	Jeremy Faue (FB)	5-11/225	Jr.	1L RS	Hamel, Minn./Wayzata Thief River Falls, Minn./Thief River Falls
4	Reid Haviland Thomas Hennessey (FB)	5-10/190 5-11/215	Fr.	RS	Somerset, Wis./Somerset
9	Amir Pinnix	6-0/195	Jr.	2L	Newark/Malcolm X. Shabazz
4	Gary Russell	5-11/215	Jr.	2L	Columbus, Ohio/Walnut Ridge
5	Judd Smith	6-0/200	Fr.	RS	Rothschild, Wis./Rothschild
5	Jay Thomas	6-0/185	Fr.	RS	Oakdale, Minn./Tartan
В	Justin Valentine (FB)	6-2/230	Jr.	2L	Columbus, Ohio/Eastmoor Academy
	ON THE PARTY OF TH	4 4 400			SHT ENDS
2	Mike Chambers	6-1/195	Fr.	RS	Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio/Walsh-Jesuit Cold Spring, Minn./Rocori
4	Eric Decker Michael Kasten	6-2/205	Fr. So.	SO	Plainview, Minn./Plainview
2	Ben Kuznia	6-0/185	Fr.	RS	Olivia, Minn./BOLD
5	Chris Mensen (TE)	6-6/240	Fr.	RS	Solon, Iowa/Solon
8	Andy Metz	6-2/190	Fr.	RS	Lakeville, Minn./Lakeville
14	Logan Payne	6-2/200	Sr.	2L	Lutz, Fla./Land O'Lakes
6	Troy Reilly (TE)	6-6/240	Fr.	RS	Plover, Wis./Stevens Point Area
0	Jack Simmons (TE)	6-4/235	So.	3L	Libertyville, III./Carmel St. Michael, Minn./St. Michael-Albertville
19	Matt Spaeth (TE)	6-6/270 6-5/215	Sr. Jr.	2L	Columbus, Ohio/Walnut Ridge
L	Ernie Wheelwright	0 3/213		NSIVE L	
8	Joe Ainslie (T)	6-7/310	Sr.	3L	Minnetonka, Minn./Hopkins
7	Tony Brinkhaus (G/C)	6-4/300	Jr.	2L	Bloomington, Minn./Thomas Jefferson
5	Brad Bultman (C)	6-2/280	Jr.	SO	Green Bay, Wis./Ashwaubenon
9	Matt DeGeest (T)	6-5/270	So.	50	Harrisburg, S.D./Harrisburg
75	Otis Hudson (G)	6-4/290	Fr.	RS	Barrington, III./Barrington
59	John Jakel (G)	6-5/280	Jr.	SO	Schofield, Wis./D.C. Everest
73	Matt Krueger (G)	6-5/250 6-5/235	Fr.	RS RS	Maple Plain, Minn./Delano Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview
4	Jason Meinke (T) Ryan Ruckdashel (G)	6-6/255	Fr.	RS	Apple Valley, Minn./Eastview
54	Steve Shidell (T)	6-5/285	Jr.	1L	Coon Rapids, Minn./Coon Rapids
66	Tyson Swaggert (C/G)	6-4/285	Sr.	21	Buffalo, Minn./Buffalo
66	Nedward Tavale (G)	6-2/305	Fr.	RS	St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall
			DEFE	NSIVE L	INEMEN
98	Neel Allen (T)	6-3/295	Jr.	11.	Marietta, Ga./Lassiter
55	William Brody (E)	6-5/245	So.	20	Garfield Heights, Ohio/Benedictine
90	Eric Clark (T)	6-4/265	Sr.	3L	Tampa/Tampa Bay Tech
92	Steve Davis (E)	6-2/230	So.	11	St. Louis/McCluer North
70 79	Todd Meisel (T) Barrett Moen	6-4/265	Jr. Fr.	1L RS	Hartland, Wis./Arrowhead Bloomington, Minn./Bloomington Jefferson
96	Matt Stommes (T)	6-7/245	Fr.	RS	Richmond, Minn./Eden Valley-Watkins
93	Nhemie Theodore (T)	6-3/290	So.	SO	Irvington, N.J./Irvington
77	Jeff Tow-Arnett (E)	6-2/270	Fr.	RS	Redwood Falls, Minn./Redwood Valley
74	Nick Tow-Arnett (E)	6-4/245	Fr.	RS	Redwood Falls, Minn./Redwood Valley
91	Willie VanDeSteeg (E)	6-4/250	So.	1L	Silver Lake, Minn./Glencoe-Silver Lake
		110000		INEBACI	
57	Patrick Cheney	6-1/225	Jr.	1L	Shoreview, Minn./Mounds View
30	Anthony Cullen	6-0/205	So.	\$0	St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall
44	Alex Daniels Deon Hightower	6-3/230	So.	1L SQ	Columbus, Ohio/Brookhaven Arlington, Texas/Mansfield Summit
59	Steve Moore	6-2/235	So.	SO	Coon Rapids, Minn./Blaine
48	Mario Reese	6-3/230	Sr.	3L	Mableton, Ga./Pebblebrook
58	Mike Sherels	6-0/235	Jr.	2L	Rochester, Minn./John Marshall
46	John Shevlin	6-1/225	Jr.	2L	Eagan, Minn./Eastview
55	James Tindall	6-2/215	So.	TR	South Orange, N.J./University of Massachusetts
51	Nathan Triplett	6-3/230	Fr.	RS	Maple Plain, Minn./Delano
	T	F. At Page		ENSIVE	
4	Trumaine Banks (FS)	5-11/185	Sr.	3L	Columbus, Ohio/Eastmoor Academy Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata
23 16	John Carlson (SS)	6-0/200	Jr. So.	SQ SQ	Wayzata, Minn./Wayzata Wayzata, Minn./Hopkins
14	Brody Grandas (SS)	5-11/185	So.	50	Woodbury, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall
15	Jamal Harris (CB)	6-0/185	Jr.	2L	Delray Beach, Fla./Atlantic
2	Dominic Jones (SS)	5-9/180	So.	1L	Columbus, Ohio/Brookhaven
28	Kevin Mannion (SS)	6-2/200	So.	50	Germantown, Wis./Germantown
9	Keith Massey (CB)	6-1/200	Fr.	RS	Columbus, Ohio/Brookhaven
13	Michael McKelton (CB)	5-10/170	Fr.	RS -	Royal Palm Beach, Fla./Royal Palm Beach
19	Tim Soliday (FS)	6-2/180	Fr.	RS SQ	Apple Valley, Minn./Apple Valley Vacherie, La./St. James
11 35	Desi Steib (CB) Seth Thompson (FS)	6-1/185	Jr. Jr.	20	Hudson, Wis./Cretin-Derham Hall
JJ	seth intimpoul (F3)	0 0/170		SPECIAL	
31	Jason Giannini (K)	5-10/180	So.	1L	Canton, Ohio/Glen Oak
16	Blake Haudan (P/K)	6-1/190	Fr.	RS	Toledo, Ohio/St. John's Jesuit
41	Justin Kucek (P)	6-0/200	So.	1L	Columbus, Ohio/Canfield
15	Drew Lechner (P)	6-2/205	So.	SO	Sauk Rapids, Minn./Sartell
43	Robert McGarry (LS)	6-3/215	Jr.	2L	Stillwater, Minn./Stillwater
36	Joel Monroe (K)	6-0/180	So.	IL SO	Brooklyn Park, Minn./Robbinsdale-Cooper
59	Kyle Schwebke (LS)	6-2/190	So.		Oshkosh, Wis./Oshkosh West

COACHING

VISHWANAT / TSN ARCHIVES

DILIP

Despite many rumors the past several years that Glen Mason would be moving on, he signed a contract extension in the offseason that makes him the Big Ten's second-highest paid coach.

His style remains consistent: The Gophers try to control the clock on offense and minimize big

plays by the opposition.

Mason has proved he can make this a consistent bowl team. His next challenge: a New Year's Day bowl. That won't be easy, considering his recruiting base lacks talent. Still, Mason has accomplished a lot, and fans should be happy about that. His all-business demeanor isn't the warmest, but he is in charge and charts a definitive

Mason is in cha

Mason's staff continuity allows the team to target the right recruits for the system. Offensive coordinator Mitch Browning is a longtime Mason lieutenant and a big reason the team has been so successful for many years. Some school would be wise to give Browning a chance to be a head coach.

Coordinator David Lockwood is a bundle of energy on the sideline and often seen cajoling his troops. Still, he's struggling to get the defense to a championship level. He has experience directing secondaries, and that has helped. But Lockwood's defenses won't get significantly better until he's able to get more production out of his front seven.

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

SPECIAL TEAMS

Jason Giannini kicked well most of last season, but he lost it late in the season. Giannini got so shaky that coaches inserted Joel Monroe for the Music City Bowl. Though his kickoffs aren't bombs, Monroe remains the leader for the job because he's more accurate and trustworthy than Giannini.

Punter Justin Kucek is little more than average. He needs better hang time and touch. His job could be more vital if the offense struggles.

The return situation is solid. Dominic Jones is a versatile threat, and Logan Payne can get the job done. But does either scare opponents? Bigger plays are needed. And the Gophers must clean up their coverage units. Opponents returned three kicks for touchdowns last year.

RECRUITING 2006 CLASS

National rank 62 Conference rank 9

Name Pos. Ht./wt. Hometown/school

**** Among the nation's top 30 prospects

None

*** Among the nation's top 200 prospects

	AAAA AIIIU	ing the natio	is top 200 prospects
None			
	*** Amor	ng the nation	's top 500 prospects
Tommy Becker	LB	6-2/230	Wayzata, Minn./Wayzata
Garrett Brown	DL	6-2/285	New Haven, Conn./Fairfield College Prep
D.J. Burris	0L	6-2/278	Kenton, Ohio/Kenton
Brylee Callender	RB	6-0/200	Lakeville, Minn/Feather River J.C. (Minn.)
Jamar Howard	WR	6-4/200	Cincinnati/Withrow
Robert McField	DL	6-6/235	St. Louis/Normandy
Sean McWhirter	DL	6-3/245	Maple Plain, Minn./Orono
Terrence Sherrer	RB	5-11/195	Cincinnati/Colerain
Adam Weber	QB	6-3/210	Shoreview, Minn./Mounds View
	**	Solid Divisio	on I prospects

Dominic Alford	OL	6-3/305	Cleveland/Shaker Heights
Andy Brinkhaus	OL	6-3/275	Bloomington, Minn./Thomas Jefferson
R.J. Buckner	DB	5-11/190	Keller, Texas/Harvest Christian Academy
Lee Campbell	LB	6-3/220	Naples, Fla./Gulf Coast
Duran Cooley	DB	6-0/205	Los Angeles/Reedley J.C. (Calif.)
Willie Dyson	DL	6-3/228	Ballwin, Mo./Kirkwood
Eric Ellestad	K	6-2/170	Brooklyn Park, Minn./Armstrong
Ben Fischer	WR	6-1/180	Wausau, Wis./Wausau East
E.J. Jones	RB	5-9/185	Edwardsville, III./Edwardsville
Daron Love	DB	6-1/185	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla./Dwyer
Josh Robertson	DB	5-11/175	Harrisburg, Pa./Lackawanna J.C. (Pa.)
Mike Wey	LB	6-3/235	Oak Creek, Wis./Oak Creek

Biggest get: Glen Mason knows a few things about star running backs, so people took notice when he targeted junior college transfer Brylee Callender and Terrence Sherrer. Many other Big Ten teams passed on Sherrer, but Mason's staff loved his explosiveness and ability to turn in big runs in big games.

Sherrer hails from one of

Biggest miss: It had to sting when the top two players in the state bolted: OL Matt Carufel (Forest Lake, Minn./Cretin-Derham) landed at Notre Dame, and TE Jordon McMichael (Eden Prairie, Minn./Breck School) signed with Boston College. Both would have been immediate impact players.

Ohio's top programs.

Instant impact: Defensive ends were a huge priority, so Robert McField and Sean McWhirter are good fits. McField's pledge was big because he had been committed to Missouri before switching late in the process.

Diamond in the rough: DB R.J. Buckner is the ultimate sleeper. Playing for a small private school in Texas, Buckner went largely unnoticed by many Big 12 programs, but assistant Carey Bailey did his homework and found him. Buckner has size, speed and amazing upside.

Battleground: Along with Carufel and McMichael, the Gophers lost DL Brandon Hoey (Shoreview, Minn./ Mounds View) and

DB Kim Royston (Minneapolis/ Cretin-Derham) to Wisconsin, and DT Kyle Sheehan (Fairmont, Minn./Fairmont) to Purdue. Each ranked among the state's top five recruits.

Fun facts: The staff signed players from 10 states. ... Adam Weber was ranked as the nation's No. 14 dual-threat quarterback. He turned down offers from Wisconsin, Miami and numerous others. ... Losing assistant Kerry Cooks to Wisconsin could hurt. He was considered one of the Big Ten's best recruiters and one of Mason's top closers. ... Gordon Shaw should take over as the Gophers' best recruiter. Shaw landed several key players in 2006, including sleeper LB Tommy Becker.

-Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

2-MINUTE DRILL WITH TE MATT SPAETH

My favorite opposing stadium: Penn State. They have a great stadium and great fans. It has to be one of the loudest stadiums in the country.

My favorite way to spend time off: Playing Halo with teammates.

My favorite school tradition: The trophy games. We play Michigan for the Little Brown Jug, Wisconsin for Paul Bunyan's

ADEALER:

Axe, lowa for Floyd of Rosedale and Penn State for the Governor's Victory Bell.

My opponent would say the best thing I do is: Blocking. You have to be able to block well to play in our system.

The funniest or worst nickname I've had: Growing up playing football in the backyard, my nickname was "Bear." My neighbor started calling me that because he thought I was as big as a bear.

The Gophers' biggest locker room prankster: Pretty much all the wide receivers. They are always up to something. You have to know where they are at all times.

QUICK HITS

Where they play

Stadium: Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome (artificial, 64,172) Site: Minneapolis Tickets: 800-846-7437

What they run

Offensive scheme: Multiple Defensive scheme: 4-3

The last time

They won a league title: 1967 (tie) They didn't play in a bowl: 2001

Coaching staff

Head coach: Glen Mason (58-50, 9 years; 117-114-1 overall, 20 years)

Assistant head coach/offensive coordinator: Mitch Browning (7th year, 10th at school)

Defensive coordinator/outside linebackers: David Lockwood (2nd year, 5th at school)

Running backs: Vic Adamle (8th year, 10th at school)

Defensive line: Carey Bailey (2nd year)

Secondary: Craig Bray (1st year) Linebackers: Mark Criner (1st year)

Passing game coordinator/quarterbacks: Tony Petersen (2nd year, 8th at school)

Guards/centers: Gordon Shaw (6th year, 14th at school)

Wide receivers: Luke Tressel (2nd year, 6th at school)



INSIDE THE

Line Big plays would be a luxury. Rather, this group must hope at least to hold its ground. It'll be a tall order for a unit that lacks depth.

The only returning player is end Steve Davis, an undersized but explosive and quick playmaker who was one of the nation's top freshmen last year. He'll be counted on for more production for a defense that ranked ninth in the Big Ten last season in sacks (15). The other end should be Willie VanDeSteeg, whose engine always revs. Behind them is William Brody and Jeff Tow-Arnett, who moved from tackle in the spring.

Todd Meisel might be the team's best tackle. He's a former walk-on who never quits. The other spot might go to Neel Allen, who has legit Big Ten size. Glen Mason called Eric Clark "a pleasant surprise" this spring. Clark, who was dealing with family issues last year, lacks the ideal weight of a Big Ten tackle. If he doesn't start, he'll rotate in for a line that must hold up better against the run and protect the linebackers from blockers. Redshirt freshman Matt Stommes is another option. He's a rangy player who was moved inside from end during spring drills.

Linebackers There's work to do here for a unit that has many moving parts and needs to improve. Further muddling the picture: There's a new linebackers coach, Mark Criner.

At least Criner has a building block in strongside linebacker Mario Reese.

He made a successful switch from end last year. Reese works well in space, but he needs to improve his consistency. He has the size to take on tight ends and is a solid tackler. Redshirt freshman Nathan Triplett is big enough to play the run. He just needs experience.

John Shevlin is a sage hand on the weak side, but a shoulder injury ruined his spring. That allowed athletic Deon Hightower to further impress coaches. He's a hard hitter who could have a big future—if he can add bulk.

Middle linebacker Mike Sherels is a veteran hand who's reliable but lacks athletic ability. Expect to see lots of Alex Daniels, and that's not a bad thing. He's big and tough. Daniels got a lot of playing time last year as a true freshman. He

figures to be a top performer and has star potential, though he broke an arm in the spring.

Secondary There have been changes as Mason and his staff try to "get the best 11 players on the field." No doubt, this unit is a work in progress.

The saftey spots might be in better shape than the corners. The staff is experimenting with Trumaine Banks at free safety after he started at corner last year. He's a solid tackler and has decent speed and great instincts; he broke up 12 passes last year. Banks will battle Dominique Barber but

could end up moving back to his old spot. Regardless, it will be difficult to replace the savvy and leadership of departed John Pawielski.

If the unit has a star, it's strong safety Dominic Jones, who

turned heads as a true freshman last year. He's a little guy who packs a big punch and is the secondary's leader. Kevin Mannion also will be in the mix at strong safety, as will John Carlson, whose size and ability to move in space might make him a fit at weakside linebacker.

Jamal Harris looks solid at one corner spot.

Though he lacks top speed, he has the size to cover big wideouts and offer run support. Backup redshirt freshman Michael McKelton is a promising prospect. Desi Steib should claim the spot opposite Harris. Like Harris, Steib is a big corner who isn't afraid to play the run, but he might struggle to keep pace

with fast wideouts. Backup redshirt freshman Keith Massey possesses the athletic skills necessary to be a top-notch corner.

Incoming freshman Daron Love and junior college transfer Duran Cooley are wild cards who could change the secondary's configuration when they arrive in the fall. Cooley was a late addition to the recruiting class; he began his career at Boise State.

PHILOSOPHY

Coordinator David Lockwood injects lots of energy and likes to attack from a 4-3 set. But the Gophers struggle against the Big Ten's athletic teams, particularly along the front seven. Minnesota will try to blitz but won't leave its defensive backs in many one-on-one situations. This year, the linebackers and secondary should be strengths, which will allow for a little more risk-taking up front.

RREATO TPLAYER

Alex Daniels flashed talent last year as a reserve middle linebacker, but now is the time for him to become a real factor. He has good size for the position, even though he played safety in high school. Daniels is fast and hits hard. He will force turnovers and can find the quarterback on the blitz. He'll struggle at times with pass-defense assignments, but he has the tools necessary to stand out.

	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
33	LE	92	Steve Davis 🛦	6-2	230	So.
100		77	Jeff Tow-Arnett	6-2	270	Fr.
7 M	LT	98	Neel Allen	6-3	295	Jr.
	100	90	Eric Clark	6-4	265	Sr.
	RT	70	Todd Meisel	6-4	265	Jr.
		96	Matt Stommes	6-7	245	Fr.
11	RE	91	Willie VanDeSteeg	6-4	250	So.
		65	William Brody	6-5	245	So.
	WLB	46	John Shevlin	6-1	225	Jr.
		44	Deon Hightower	6-3	200	So.
	MLB	58	Mike Sherels	6-0	235	Jr.
		6	Alex Daniels	6-3	230	So.
4119	SLB	48	Mario Reese 🛦	6-3	230	Sr.
1		51	Nathan Triplett	6-3	230	Fr.
	CB	15	Jamal Harris	6-0	185	Jr.
-		13	Michael McKelton	5-10	170	Fr.
5000	SS	2	Dominic Jones 🛦	5-9	180	So.
		28	Kevin Mannion	6-2	200	So.
	FS	23	Dominique Barber	6-0	200	Jr.
		4	Trumaine Banks	5-11	185	Sr.
and the same	CB	11	Desi Steib	6-1	185	Jr.
100		9	Keith Massey	6-1	200	Fr.
	P	41	Justin Kucek	6-0	200	So.
	PR	2	Dominic Jones	5-9	180	So.
			starters in bold *True from spect	eshman		

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Payne

PHILOSOPHY

Coordinator Mitch Browning is one of the nation's best. Still, there's nothing fancy going on. This is a ground-based attack that looks to control the ball and create opportunities for running backs. That's when Browning strikes with play-action passes to a group of underrated wideouts. But it all starts with what usually is a great line, which executes a zone-blocking scheme like the Denver Broncos'.

Backfield After spending his sophomore year as a weak link in the offense, Bryan Cupito emerged as a reliable passer last season. Cupito isn't exactly operating an aerial circus, but he has

been given greater responsibility and opportunity. This year, particularly if running back Gary Russell doesn't return from academic limbo, Cupito could get the chance to open the throttle. He has good size and enters his third year as a starter, so he understands the offense. His charge is to increase his number of touchdown passes and get his completion percentage above 60.

The backup is Tony Mortensen, who's mobile and has a solid arm but limited experience.

If Russell is back, the Gophers will be in good shape in the backfield. His high point was a 61-yard dash late in the 23-20 win at Michigan that set up the game-winning field goal. If Russell isn't back, Amir Pinnix will be the man. He's smart, quick and fairly battletested, but he lacks size and isn't physical. Can he carry the load?

Brylee Callender, a junior college import, received a lot of work this spring and will be counted on for immediate production. He's a solid combination of strength and speed. Promising redshirt freshman Jay Thomas also will get some looks.

Fullback Justin Valentine is a versatile weapon who can catch and line up at running back.

Receivers: A quick look at the Gophers' depth chart reveals one thing right away: Size matters. Each of the top seven receivers is at least 6-0. And both of the newcomers are 6-1 or taller. Glen Mason wants big guys who can block for this ground-bound attack. But you have to catch, too. And last year, a few targets emerged as reliable options.

Logan Payne and Ernie Wheelwright are

coming off strong seasons and should be capable of bigger things. Payne tied with Wheelwright, one of the Big Ten's most physical targets, for the team lead with 37 receptions last year.

Depth, however, will be a problem. Four redshirt freshmen, a sophomore and two true freshmen provide hope. Of the bunch, redshirt freshmen Mike Chambers and Eric Decker hold the most promise.

The tight end position is strong and deep. Matt Spaeth might be

I PLAYER

Even if Gary Russell returns, RB Amir Pinnix will get a lot of carries. That's just how it works for a program that likes to use two running backs. Pinnix has the talent to be a top back. He showed that last year by averaging 6.0 yards per carry and gaining 467 yards. Pinnix is fast and strong. He just needs the opportunity to carry the ball 15-20 times a game to prove his status as a first-rate back.

the best tight end in the Big Ten. He's a big man and a physical blocker. He could be in store for a productive season. And his hands are improving. Backup Jack Simmons has good hands and is a sturdy blocker.

Line Last year, the line was about as good as it could get. Those guys helped pave the way for the No. 3 rushing attack in the nation. And the big fellas were a big reason Minnesota became the first school ever to produce a pair of 1,000-yard rushers three consecutive seasons. But is there talent this year?

Yes and no. The Gophers lost a pair of stalwarts in center Greg Eslinger, the Outland Trophy and Rimington Award winner, and guard Mark Setterstrom. Each started four years.

This year's strength will be at the tackle. Joe Ainslie anchors the right side, and Steve Shidell is the incumbent left tackle. He's an aggressive blocker with a mean streak.

Tony Brinkhaus and Tyson Swaggert are interchangable at center and left guard. The question: Who will play where? It likely won't matter because each is capable. In fact, Brinkhaus is Minnesota's best blocker.

Right guard is unsettled. A trio of redshirt freshmen—Otis Hudson, Ryan Ruckdashel and Nedward Tavale—are battling. Stay tuned.

The same of	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	WR	84	Logan Payne	6-2	200	Sr.
		14	Eric Decker	6-2	205	Fr.
	LT	64	Steve Shidell	6-5	285	Jr.
		73	Jason Meinke	6-5	235	Fr.
	LG	77	Tony Brinkhaus 🛦	6-4	300	Jr.
		56	Tyson Swaggert	6-4	285	Sr.
	C	56	Tyson Swaggert	6-4	285	Sr.
	E Park	77	Tony Brinkhaus	6-4	300	Jr.
Lin	RG	75	Otis Hudson	6-4	290	Fr.
		74	Ryan Ruckdashel	6-6	255	Fr.
	RT	78	Joe Ainslie	6-7	310	Sr.
and the same of		79	Matt DeGeest	6-5	270	So.
	TE	89	Matt Spaeth A	6-6	270	Sr.
		80	Jack Simmons	6-4	235	So.
	WR	82	Ernie Wheelwright 🛦	6-5	215	Jr.
	100	12	Mike Chambers	6-1	195	Fr.
	QB	3	Bryan Cupito 📣	6-3	205	Sr.
		17	Tony Mortensen	6-3	220	So.
	RB	29	Amir Pinnix	6-0	195	Jr.
		30	Brylee Callender	6-0	200	Jr.
1	FB	18	Justin Valentine	6-2	230	Jr.
		34	Jeremy Faue	5-11	225	Jr.
	K	36	Joel Monroe	6-0	180	So.
	KR	2	Dominic Jones	5-9	180	So.
	Retur	ning	starters in bold *True fre	shman		
September 1	A NE	L pro	spect			

Date	Opponent	What it means	SN pick
Aug. 31	at Kent State*	A classic season-opening tomato can. Expect the Gophers to run 60 times—and learn little.	W
Sept. 9	at California	Minnesota has a chance. Why? Because it has an experienced quarterback.	L
Sept. 16	Temple	It's nice to have an appetizer sandwiched between two main courses. Enjoy the feast!	W
Sept. 23	at Purdue	The Gophers never win here. So, a victory means tangible progress. A loss same old Gophers.	L
Sept. 30	Michigan	Time to kiss the Little Brown Jug goodbye—if Minnesota ever took it out of the box.	L
Oct. 7	Penn State	Nothing like a home win vs. a marquee foe to perk up spirits. But this may be too much to ask.	L
Oct. 14	at Wisconsin	Paul Bunyan's Axe is on the line. What will Minnesota have left after three tough games?	W
Oct. 21	North Dakota State	By now, the Gophers might need an injection of confidence. This should do. Thanks, Bison!	W
Oct. 28	at Ohio State	Mason dreamed of coaching his alma mater. At least he still can experience losing to it—again.	L
Nov. 4	Indiana	Time to take care of business and keep bowl hopes alive vs. a foe that thinks it can win.	W
Nov. 11	at Michigan State	Big Ten road wins are difficult to get. But this is one Minnesota can nab to salvage the season.	W
Nov. 18	lowa	A chance to pet Floyd of Rosedale for the first time since 2000-and damage lowa's bowl dreams	s. L

Forget about improving bowl prospects, just getting to a seventh bowl in eight years will be difficult. Pencil in a 3-1 nonconference record. And Indiana is a gimme. Now, the tough part: Where will the other two victories come from? They might have to be on the road, at Purdue, Wisconsin or Michigan State. Not easy, but not impossible, either.

-Comments and predictions by Sporting News

BLOG ALERT

'Glen Mason's \$1.65 million salary makes

him the second-highest paid coach in the Big Ten. For what? No Big Ten titles. No

New Year's Day bowls. And there's no chance of either happening this fall. Mediocrity never paid so well."

For more of Tom Dienhart's take on Minnesota, go to www.sportingnews.com

Cupito

SCOUTING THE GOLDEN GOPHERS

Views from a pro scout or an opposing coach

Glen Mason is very well-paid. I'd like to get what he's getting.

How can they afford to pay Mason \$1.65 million when they can't fill their stadium? ... I think Mason is a good coach. He's a hard-nosed guy. That's a hard-nosed team. I like their tight ends. I like the way they block. Mason thinks in order to be successful in the Big Ten you have to run the ball. In order to run the ball, you have to be tough. And that's the type of kid he recruits, and that's the way he coaches, and that's the way they play. They're a big football team. I like the way they look. ... QB Bryan Cupito is a little bit like (Wisconsin's John) Stocco in that he has gotten better with time. Cupito is to the point now to where he can win a game for them. I didn't think he could as a freshman. ... Minnesota always has big, physical receivers. They can cause problems for you because they can get your little shoefly DB on the ground. WR Ernie Wheelwright is a big, good-looking guy. ...

Their tight end, Matt Spaeth, is a great player, a great blocker. He kicked our guy's ass.

er tight end, Matt Spaeth, is a great player, a great blocker. He kicked our guys ass.

... They'll probably get RB Gary Russell back. There's a process in place to get him
back. He's really good. I don't think there's any doubt they'll have a 1,000-yard
rusher. ... They are kind of like Northwestern on defense. They won't ever have
the horses. It's hard for me to believe you can't score more against them. I like
DE Steve Davis. He's a little guy, but he'can run. Their secondary is OK.

A.J. MAST FOR TSN

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WATT



Minnesota realized what they had in Glen Mason. Sure, he can be a little difficult. And Mason didn't do himself any favors by having a wandering eye. Remember his lust for the Ohio State job a few years ago?

But Mason looks like he's here to stay after signing a contract extension in the offseason that will pay him \$1.65 million per year, making him the second-highest paid coach in the Big Ten. Not bad for a guy who never has won a league title, let alone taken the Gophers to a New Year's Day bowl.

Still, Mason deserved the new deal. Sure, his feats pale in comparison to those at Michigan and Ohio State, but this *is* Minnesota, and Mason has presided over one of the greatest runs of prosperity in school history.

The facts: Mason led the Gophers to bowl games in six of the past seven years—a school record. He also engineered 32 victories the past four seasons—the program's best stretch since 1902-05.

Now, he can go about the business of trying to elevate the Gophers to the next level. Should the school get funding for a new on-campus stadium, Mason's cause would be augmented. Maybe dreams of the program winning its first Big Ten title since 1967 won't seem so far-fetched.

The keys to taking the next step will be improving a defense that typically never is better than average. And Minnesota's vaunted running game needs help. Laurence Maroney bolted early for the NFL, Outland Trophy-winning center Greg Eslinger is gone and Gary Russell's future is in doubt because of academics.

The bottom line: Minnesota might be hard-pressed to produce a 1,000-yard rusher for an eighth season in a row—and take that elusive next step.

Story: Michael Bradley

Photo: G Tony Brinkhaus

TED FINISH Overall: 6-6 Conference: 3-5/T7th

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MINTESTA COLUMNIA COL

A.J. MAST FOR ISH

RETURNING	LEADERS
RUSHING	Att.
Jamil Walker	18
Dywon Rowan	13

RUSHING		Att		Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jamil Walker		18		96	5.3	1
Dywon Rowan		13		34	2.6	1
PASSING	Comp.	Att.	Pc	t. Yds.	TD	Int.
John Stocco	197	328	60.	1 2,920	21	9
RECEIVING		Re	c.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Marcus Randle El			1	29	29.0	1
Jarvis Minton			1	16	16.0	0
Paul Hubbard			1	4	4.0	0
Jamil Walker			1	0	0	0
KICK/PUNT RET	TURNS		No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Zach Hampton			10	170	17.0	0
KICKING		XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Taylor Mehlhaff	-	56	58	14	20	98
TACKLES	Solo	Assis	ts	Total	TFL,	/Yds.
Joe Stellmacher	48	42		90	0.	5/1
Mark Zalewski	41	42		83	12.5/	43
Roderick Rogers	38	18		56	- (0/0

Nick Hayden Sacks: Hayden (5.5)

Interceptions: Jack Ikegwuonu, Rogers (3)

KEY LOSSES

Offense FB Matt Bernstein; RB Brian Calhoun (team-high 348 att., 1,636 yards, 22 TDs; 53 rec., 571 yards, 2 TDs); TE Owen Daniels (22 rec., 268 yards, 4 TDs); G Matt Lawrence; WR Jonathan Orr (40 rec., 688 yards, 8 TDs); G Jason Palermo; C Donovan Raiola; RB Booker Stanley (69 att., 340 yards, 3 TDs); WR Brandon Williams (team-high 59 rec., 1,095 yards, 6 TDs; 48 kick/punt ret., 20.8 avg., 2 TDs). .

9/40

Defense CB Brett Bell (35 tackles); CB Levonne Rowan (27 tackles); LB Dontez Sanders (team-high 95 tackles, 9 tackles for loss, 3.5 sacks); LB LaMarr Watkins (52 tackles, 3 tackles for loss).

2005 TEAM STATISTICS

	Average	Rank
Rushing offense	168.2	8th Big Ten/37th nation
Rushing defense	167.5	8th/79th
Passing offense	228.4	5th/50th
Passing defense	249.8	7th/88th
Total offense	396.5	8th/45th
Total defense	417.4	7th/92nd
Turnover differential	+13	1st/11th

2005 RESULTS (10-3, 5-3/T3rd Big Ten)

Bowling Green	W, 56-42	at Illinois	W, 41-24
Temple	W, 65-0	at Penn State	L, 35-14
at North Carolina	W, 14-5	lowa .	L, 20-10
Michigan	W, 23-20	at Hawaii	W, 41-24
Indiana	W, 41-24	Auburn*	W, 24-10
at Northwestern	L, 51-48	*Capital One Bowl	
at Minnesota	W, 38-34		
Purdue	W, 31-20		

TDA	CVI	MIC	THE	MINIC
IKA	LIN.	NU	Inc	WINS

1 III I SILLII						DOM VICTORY
0 1 2 3	4 5	6	7	8	9	10 11 12 13
05 Capital One*			1	-	1	- 1
04 Outback			1	-		
03 Music City			1	1	1	
02 Alamo*				-	1	
01			1	-	1	

DAI	DA	ED	CD	00	TED
KΔ	III i	ŀΚ	/ H	TI)	TER

	DGERS ROSTE	Ht./Wt.	CI.	Exp.	Hometown/previous school
				ARTERB	
	Tyler Donovan	6-1/190	Jr.	2L	Hartland, Wis./Arrowhead
3	Dustin Sherer	6-4/209	Fr.	RS	Cicero, Ind./Arcadia Hamilton Heights
	John Stocco	6-2/206	Sr.	3L	Richfield, Minn./Academy of Holy Angels
	Look Delle	(1/047		NNING E	The state of the s
2	Josh Balts	6-1/247 5-9/186	Jr. Fr.	SO RS	Barron, Wis./Barron Philadelphia/George Washington
3	Jerry Butler Dion Foster	5-8/216	Fr.	RS	Robbins, III./Oak Lawn Richards
9	P.J. Hill	5-11/235	Fr.	RS	East Elmhurst, N.Y./Poly Prep
4	Chris Pressley (FB)	6-1/268	Jr.	11.	Woodbury, N.J./Woodbury
4	Bill Rentmeester (FB)	6-0/254	So.	1L	Beaver Dam, Wis./Beaver Dam
4	Dywon Rowan	5-9/243	Sr.	1L	Erie, Pa./Mercyhurst Prep
2	Jamil Walker	6-2/221	Jr.	11.	Rolling Meadows, III./Palatine Fremd
	and the same of th				GHT ENDS
6	Travis Beckum (TE)	6-4/215	So.	1L	Milwaukee/Oak Creek
3	Andy Crooks (TE) Jeff Holzbauer	6-3/264 5-11/194	Jr. Sr.	2L SO	Wausau, Wis./East Germantown, Wis./Germantown
,	Paul Hubbard	6-4/218	Jr.	2L	Colorado Springs, Colo./Widefield
2	Sean Lewis (TE)	6-7/245	So.	SO	Oak Lawn, III./Richards
7	Jaevery McFadden (TE)	6-3/224	Fr.	RS	Riviera Beach, Fla./William T. Dwyer
В	Jarvis Minton	6-1/202	Jr.	1L	Arlington, Texas/Mansfield Summit
1	Dave Peck (TE)	6-5/246	So.	\$0	Media, Pa./Wallingford Strath Haven
3	Marcus Randle El	5-10/191	Jr.	2L	Markham, III./Thornton
,	Jarmal Ruffin	6-4/205	Fr.	RS	Philadelphia/Scotland School for Veterans' Children
,	Luke Swan	6-0/200	Jr.	1L	Fennimore, Wis./Fennimore
6	T.J. Theus	6-2/186	Fr.	RS	Sugarland, Texas/Kempner
5	Maroue Coloman (C)	6-6/314	Jr.	SIVE L	.INEMEN Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata
3	Marcus Coleman (C) Mark Gorman (G)	6-4/271	Sr.	2L	The Woodlands, Texas/The Woodlands
4	Danny Kaye (G/T)	6-8/317	Jr.	1L	New Berlin, Wis./Eisenhower
5	Andy Kemp (G)	6-6/321	So.	1L	Menasha, Wis./Menasha
)	Luke Knauf (C)	6-4/314	Jr.	50	Stratford, Wis./Stratford
9	Jeffrey Stehle (G/T)	6-6/299	Fr.	RS	Constantia, N.Y./Moore
2	Joe Thomas (T)	6-8/306	Sr.	3L	Brookfield, Wis./Central
3	Kraig Urbik (G)	6-6/321	So.	1L	Hudson, Wis./Hudson
1	Eric VandenHeuvel (T)	6-7/326	So.	1L SO	Hudson, Wis./Hudson
2	Mike Van Someren (T)	6-7/320	Jr. Jr.	1L	Somerset, Wis./Somerset Harrison, N.Y./Harrison
U	Andrew Weininger (G/T)	0-0/314			INEMEN
7	Dan Cascone	6-3/307	Fr.	RS	Newtown, Conn./Newtown
1	Jason Chapman (T)	6-4/283	So.	1L	Bedford Heights, Ohio/Bedford
-	Jamal Cooper (E)	6-4/206	Jr.	2L	St. Louis/Hazelwood East
8	Gino Cruse	6-5/295	So.	1L	Phoenix/Desert Vista
6	Nick Hayden (T)	6-5/310	Jr.	2L	Hartland, Wis./Arrowhead
0	Terrance Jamison	6-4/259	Fr.	RS	Riverdale, III./Thornton Township
6	Brandon Kelly	6-4/251	Jr.	2L	Bedford, Ohio/Bedford
5	Joe Monty (E)	6-2/258	Sr.	3L	Ft. Collins, Colo./Ft. Collins
9	Mike Newkirk (T)	6-3/251	So. Jr.	1L 2L	Ladysmith, Wis./Ladysmith-Hawkins
2	Justin Ostrowski (T) Matthew Shaughnessy (E)	6-5/308	So.	1L	Portage, Wis./Portage Norwich, Conn./Norwich Free Academy
4	Kurt Ware (E)	6-4/279	Jr.	1L	Spring, Texas/Klein Oak
ì	nuit nuit (L)	0 1/217		INEBACI	
6	Jonathan Casillas	6-2/208	So.	1L	New Brunswick, N.J./New Brunswick
3	Jammar Crane	6-1/199	So.	1L	Garland, Texas/Garland
2	Elijah Hodge	6-1/220	Fr.	RS	St. Thomas, Virgin Islands/Dillard
2	Casey Hogan	6-5/206	Jr.	11.	Cross Plains, Wis./Middleton
3	Paul Joran	6-3/228	Sr.	2L	Apple Valley, Minn./Apple Valley
	DeAndre Levy	6-3/220	So.	1L	Milwaukee, Wis./Vincent
0	Joshua Neal	5-10/242	So.	1L pc	Nashville/Pearl-Cohn Great Lakes, III./North Chicago Community
1	O'Brien Schofield Mark Zalewski	6-3/234	Fr. Sr.	RS 3L	Wausau, Wis./East
	MUIN LUICHSKI	0 1/130		ENSIVE	
5	Shane Carter (FS)	6-2/199	So.	1L EN2IVE	Troy, Ohio/Troy
0	Jameson Davis	6-0/190	So.	SO	Hamden, Conn./Hamden
1	Nate Egholm	5-10/218	Jr.	SO	Oconomowoc, Wis./Oconomowoc
5	Zach Hampton (CB)	5-10/171	Sr.	3L	Lancaster, Wis./Lancaster
)	William Hartmann	5-11/194	Fr.	RS	Sheboygan, Wis./South
7	Jack Ikegwuonu (CB)	6-1/199	So.	1L	Madison, Wis./Memorial
0	James Kamoku	6-2/218	Jr.	2L	Kailua-Kona, Hawaii/Kealakehe
	Allen Langford (CB)	5-11/188	So.	1L DC	Detroit/Cass Tech
8	Prince Moody	5-11/190	Fr.	RS	Columbus, Ohio/Eastmoor Academy
2	Aubrey Pleasant Roderick Rogers (FS)	6-0/205	So. Sr.	1L 3L	Flint, Mich./Montrose Stone Mountain, Ga./Stephenson
5	Joe Stellmacher (SS)	6-1/222	Sr.	3L	Berlin, Wis./Berlin
,	Ben Strickland (CB)	5-9/176	Jr.	2L	Brookfield, Wis./Central
	Johnny White (SS)	6-2/223	Sr.	2L	Pearland, Texas/Pearland
				SPECIAL	
4	Ken DeBauche (P)	6-2/221	Jr.	2L	Suamico, Wis./Bay Port
6	Matt Fischer (K)	5-11/182	Fr.	RS	Appleton, Wis./East
-	Steve Johnson (LS)	6-3/246	Jr.	1L	Brookfield, Wis./Central
				0.1	
)	Taylor Mehlhaff (K)	5-11/185	Jr.	2L	Aberdeen, S.D./Central
0 1 7		5-11/185 6-5/246 6-1/215	Jr. So. Jr.	SO SO	Media, Pa./Wallingford Strath Haven Chicago/St. Rita

Key: L-letters won; RS-redshirt; SO-squad; TR-transfer. 2006 recruits listed on page 74.

JAY DROWNS / TSN

Bielema

Jake Bscherer

Brandon Hoev

COACHING

When Bret Bielema took the headset from Barry Alvarez after serving as defensive coordinator the previous two years, Bielema looked for two main requirements when building his staff: passion and integrity. That strikes at the core of Bielema's personality. He was a feisty player at

Iowa. He wasn't a great athlete, but he loved the game, played 100 mph and tried to prepare himself better than his opponent did.

The staff is a mix of youth and experience. One of the most sage hands is that of defensive coordinator Mike Hankwitz, who constructed strong units at Texas A&M and Colorado, where

he helped win a national championship. Though Bielema's background is defense, he says he won't mettle.

Bielema made a good move by retaining offensive coordinator Paul Chryst. Receivers coach Henry Mason and Chryst are the lone holdovers from Alvarez's staff. Chryst is a bright mind who helped Wisconsin engineer the highest-scoring offense in school history last season.

The losses of defensive line coach John Palermo and quarterbacks coach Jeff Horton hurt. But the biggest departure was offensive line boss Jim Hueber, who's now with the Minnesota Vikings. Bob Palcic was hired from the NFL to assume command of a unit that was the lifeblood of the program under Alvarez the last 16 seasons.

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

Sturgeon Bay, Wis./Sturgeon Bay

Shoreview Minn /Mounds View

Rolling Meadows, III./Fremd

SPECIAL TEAMS

Ken DeBauche arrived as a walk-on and has blossomed into the Big Ten's best punter; he paced the league with a 44.8-yard average last season. He excels at pinning opponents deep in their territory.

Kicker Taylor Mehlhaff is emerging but needs to take the next step. He hit 14 of 20 field-goal attempts last year, including 4-of-6 between 40-49 yards. But he was 0-of-3 from beyond 50 yards and hasn't been asked to nail a big kick.

Brandon Williams was the Big Ten's most electric return man last season, returning two punts for scores and generally scaring foes to death, but he is gone. Marcus Randle El could be a factor on punts, and Jarvis Minton could handle kickoffs.

National rank 42 Conference rank 7

Ht./wt. Hometown/school

**** Among the nation's top 30 prospects

None

	*** Among	the nation'	s top 200 prospects
rer	OL .	6-7/285	Sturgeon Bay, Wis./Sturge

6-5/290

brandon nocy	DL	0 3/2/0	Shoreview, million mounts riew
Lance Kendricks	WR	6-4/210	Milwaukee/Rufus King
	*** Among	the nation	's top 500 prospects
Gabe Carimi	0L	6-8/280	Cottage Grove, Wis./Monona Grove
Kirk DeCremer	TE	6-5/235	Middleton, Wis./Verona
Daven Jones	WR	6-1/190	Cleveland/Glenville
Jamathan Lyle	DB	5-11/165	Boulder, Colo./Boulder
John Moffitt	OL/DL	6-5/295	Guilford, Conn./West Haven Notre Dame
Bill Nagy	OL	6-4/305	Hudson, Ohio/Hudson
Kim Royston	DB	5-11/185	Minneapolis, Minn./Cretin-Derham
Lance Smith	RB	5-10/197	Warren, Ohio/Howland
Mickey Turner	TE	6-4/240	Camdenton, Mo./Camdenton
Jay Valai	DB	5-9/195	Euless, Texas/Colleyville Heritage

	**	Solid Divisio	on I prospects
Isaac Anderson	WR	5-11/170	Minneapolis, Minn./The Blake School
Niles Brinkley	WR	5-10/175	St. Louis/Beaumont
Richard Garner	ATH	6-5/220	Pasadena, Calif./John Muir
Xavier Harris	WR	5-11/175	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./Ft. Lauderdale
Diondrae Jenkins	ATH	6-2/192	Racine, Wis./Washington Park
Maurice Moore	QB	5-11/165	Fort Worth, Texas/Everman Joe C. Bear
Josh Nettles	ATH	5-10/170	Defuniak Springs, Fla./Walton
Culmer St. Jean	DB	6-1/215	Naples, Fla./Lely
Brad Thorson	OL	6-4/285	Mequon, Wis./Homestead

6-3/190

Biggest get: WR Lance

Kendricks is a budding track star who also happens to be a football prodigy. He decided to stay in state and turned down offers from LSU and Arkansas. among others. Kendricks should play quickly because of his speed and size. Plus, the Badgers need receivers with Jonathan Orr and Brandon Williams gone.

Biggest miss: QB Brent Schaeffer, a junior college stud who began his career at Tennessee, gave the Badgers a serious look before signing with Ole Miss. Schaeffer's move caused Wisconsin to scramble and sign a second high school quarterback at the last minute.

Instant impact: This class was full of quality offensive linemen, who always are the backbone of this program. Jake Bscherer is the kingpin recruit, ranking as the No. 1 prospect in the state. Gabe Carimi, John Moffitt and Bill Nagy are other linemen who could figure into the mix early. Still, most likely will need to develop for a year before contributing.

Diamond in the rough: ATH Richard Garner was discovered by assistant coach Dave Doeren late in the process. After watching Garner play basketball, the Badgers were sold on his athletic ability. Wisconsin believes

Garner is one of the biggest steals in the nation.

Battleground: All but five players who visited Wisconsin signed with the Badgers, so give them credit for honing in on prospects they figured they could sign. Wisconsin also invaded Minnesota to grab three of that state's top 10 players,

headed by DL Brandon Hoey.

Fun facts: The Badgers landed the top four players in the state.' ... Kendricks starred in the Los Angeles Nike Training Camp, where he ran a 4.49-second electronic timed 40-yard dash. ... Wisconsin got major commitments from the coaching ranks this offseason. The additions of Kerry Cooks and Doeren were huge. Cooks was Glen Mason's top recruiter at Minnesota, and Doeren cut his teeth as one of the top recruiters in the Big 12 for Kansas. He also was responsible for co-coordinating one of the top defenses in the Big 12 last season. - Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

Scott Tolzien

2-MINUTE DRILL WITH OT JOE THOMAS

The best prank I have seen: We always convince the freshmen that they have to wear a shirt and tie to our spring game. One kid's parents even had to leave their house at 3 a.m. on the day of the spring game to bring their son his suit and tie.

My teammate with the worst ride: My roommate Steve Johnson used to drive this old moped that he called the "White Knight." It had a top speed of about 20 mph and usually didn't

get that high except going downhill. If it rained or was below 60 degrees, it would never start.

My favorite school tradition: "Jump Around"—it is easily the coolest tradition in college football. When you are on the field and you turn around and see 20,000 students jumping in unison to "Jump

Around," you then realize how special it is to be able to play college football.

Stats can't tell you this about me: I am the greatest walleye fisherman to ever walk the face of the earth.

QUICK HITS

Where they play

Stadium: Camp Randall (artificial, 80,123) Site: Madison, Wis.

Tickets: 800-462-2343

What they run

Offensive scheme: I-formation Defensive scheme: 4-3

The last time

They won a league title: 1999 They didn't play in a bowl: 2001

Coaching staff

Head coach: Bret Bielema (1st year, 3rd at school) Offensive coordinator/quarterbacks: Paul Chryst (2nd year, 3rd at school) Defensive coordinator: Mike Hankwitz

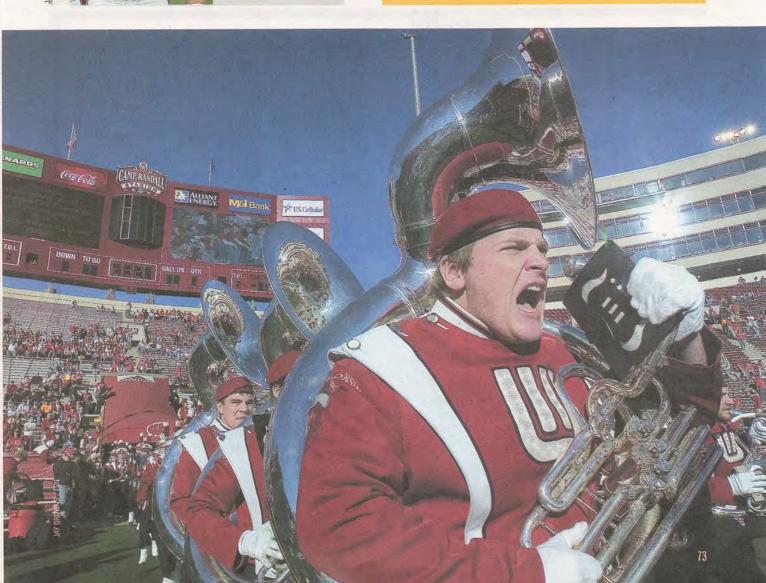
(1st year)

Co-defensive coordinator/linebackers/ recruiting coordinator: Dave Doeren (1st year)

Tight ends: Bob Bostad (1st year) Defensive backs: Kerry Cooks (1st year) Wide receivers: Henry Mason (12th year) Defensive line: Randall McCray

(1st year)
Offensive line: Bob Palcic (1st year,
5th at school)

Running backs: John Settle (1st year)



2-MINUTE DRILL WITH LB NICK ROACH

The Wildcats' biggest locker room prankster:

Demetrius Eaton. He's one of the funniest, silliest guys on the team—he always has some jokes for us. When we were at the Sun Bowl, we had a dinner with UCLA, and we had a talent show. He went up there and did a remix of the song "Laffy Taffy," but he did it in Bill Cosby's voice, and he did it about pudding pops.

My opponents would say my biggest strength is: I'm a versatile player. I play inside linebacker, outside linebacker and

some defensive end.

One thing people might be surprised to know about me: I used to take judo lessons for a little while when I was younger. My older brother got me into it.

My favorite moment as a college player: The Ohio State game my sophomore year, in that overtime period. Just going out and feeling all the excitement, hearing the crowd, just being in the huddle during crunch time.

My favorite opposing stadium: Penn State. I really liked the field, and the stadium obviously is a classic.

QUICK HITS

Where they play

Stadium: Ryan Field (grass, 47,130) Site: Evanston, III. Tickets: 847-491-2287

What they run

Offensive scheme: Multiple, spread formation
Defensive scheme: 4-3

The last time

They won a league title: 2000 (tie) They didn't play in a bowl: 2004

Coaching staff

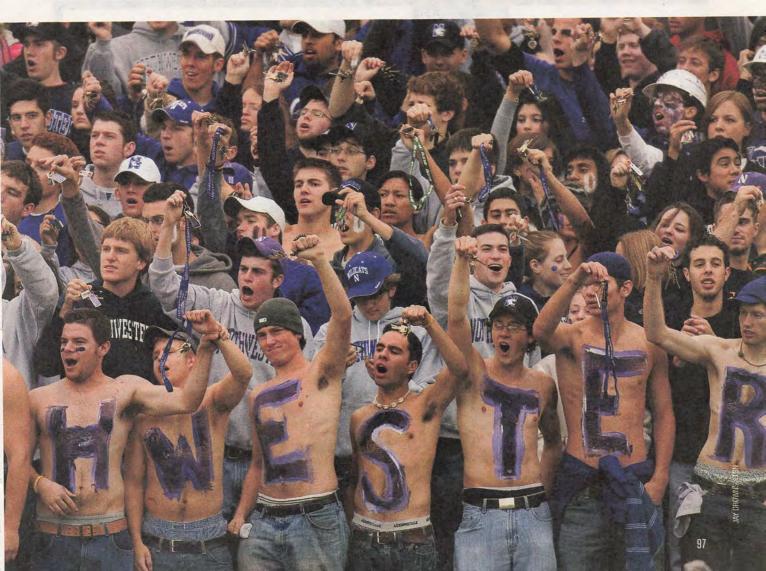
Head coach: Randy Walker (37-46, 7 years; 96-81-5 overall, 16 years) Assistant head coach/defensive backs: Jerry Brown (5th year, 14th at school) Defensive coordinator: Greg Colby (5th year)

Offensive coordinator/quarterbacks: Garrick McGee (1st year, 3rd at school) Tight ends/H-backs: Adam Cushing (2nd year, 3rd at school)

Linebackers/recruiting coordinator:
Pat Fitzgerald (5th year, 6th at school)
Offensive line: Bret Ingalls (1st year)
Wide receivers: Kevin Johns (1st year,
6th at school)

Running backs: Matt MacPherson (1st year, 4th at school) Defensive line: Eric Washington (3rd year)





DROWNS / TSN

JAY

Walker

COACHING

Randy Walker gets some of his best coaching advice from his wife. Before games, she tells him: coach hard or hardly coach. If Walker has done his job throughout the week, he figures he hardly should have to coach on Saturdays.

Walker typically is the picture of calm on the

sidelines, but he's the ultimate kick-you-in-the-ass old-school coach during the week.

There was a shake-up, with offensive coordinator Mike Dunbar leaving to take the same post at California. He wanted to stay, but Northwestern couldn't match Cal's offer. Receivers coach Garrick McGee was promoted to coordinator, so don't expect many

changes. But McGee faces the pressure of taking

over an offense that was the second in Big Ten history to average more than 500 yards. The 'Cats also set a school mark

by averaging 306.8 yards passing.

Offensive line coach James Patton left for Oklahoma even though he had a chance to run the offense. Bret Ingalls was hired from Miami (Ohio) to take over the line. He has coordinator experience and came highly recommended to Walker.

Fiery, young Matt MacPherson was hired from Eastern Michigan to coach running backs. That hire prompted Kevin Johns to move to receivers coach. MacPherson previously worked for Walker at Northwestern as a graduate assistant.

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

SPECIAL TEAMS

OK, the Sun Bowl was a fiasco for kicker Joel Howells. Forget it. He's better than that. Howells hit 9 of 11 field-goal attempts inside 40 yards, but he's shakier beyond 40. Just to be safe, Northwestern will have competition for the job.

Punter Slade Larscheid will be pushed for the job by Amado Villarreal, who has experience. Kyle Daley is another possibility.

The return game looks OK. Marquice Cole is a go-the-distance guy; he ran a punt back for a touchdown last year. But he can't be trusted to secure the ball. Still, look for Cole to figure prominently on kickoff and punt returns, along with Brandon Roberson.

Gerard Hamlett could have a big future after flashing promise last year on kickoff returns.

National rank 81 Conference rank 10

Ht./wt. Hometown/school **** Among the nation's top 30 prospects

None			
+	*** Amo	ng the natio	n's top 200 prospects
None			
	*** Amor	ng the nation	's top 500 prospects
Mike Boyle	OL	6-7/270	Havertown, Pa./The Hun School
Quentin Davie	LB	6-4/200	St. Louis/Cardinal Ritter
Carl Fisher	WR	6-1/200	Bolingbrook, III./Bolingbrook
Justan Vaughn	CB	6-0/175	Pearland Texas/Pearland
	**	Solid Divisio	on I prospects
Corbin Bryant	DE	6-4/240	Chicago/Morgan Park
Lee Coleman	WR	6-0/170	Gainesville, Ga./East Hall
Stefan Demos	K	5-10/175	Scottsdale, Ariz./Horizon
Kendal Mason	DT	6-1/270	Delray Beach, Fla./Boca Raton
Joe Mauro	QB	6-4/210	Bedford, Texas/L.D. Bell
Sherrick McManis	CB	6-1/170	Peoria, III./Richwoods
Brendan Mitchell	TE	6-3/240	Twinsburg, Ohio/Western Reserve Academy
Brad Phillips	ATH	6-2/200	Export, Pa./Franklin Regional
Stephen Simmons	TB	5-9/180	St. Louis/Saint Louis University
Connor Smith	OL.	6-2/275	Canyon Lake, Texas/Smithson Valley
Sidney Stewart	WR	6-1/170	Farmington Hills, Mich./Farmington Harrison
Marshall Thomas	DT	6-3/270	Miami/Belen Jesuit Prep
Nate Williams	LB	6-2/220	Pittsburgh/Central Catholic

Pittsburgh/Central Catholic

Biggest get: WR Carl Fisher was heavily recruited by Kansas, Utah and Wisconsin, but he pledged to the Wildcats in mid-October-and stuck with it. Fisher's skills will augment a group of receivers that needs playmakers.

Biggest miss: The Wildcats missed on a few big names that visited, including OL Bryant Browning (Ohio State), LB Nick Macaluso (Stanford), DE Derek Hall (Stanford) and DB Trey Womack (Virginia). QB Alex Loukas' father played at Northwestern, but he still opted for Stanford.

Instant impact: LB Quentin Davie has the talent to play quickly. He's big and athletic, two ingredients the Wildcats always can use on defense. He committed to Duke early in the process before reversing field and choosing the Wildcats.

Diamond in the rough: Give the staff credit for jumping on board with an early scholarship offer for QB Joe Mauro. He has the goods to be a fine college quarterback. One day, several Big 12 teams might regret not offering Mauro a scholarship.

Battleground: Losing out on a few kids to academic rival Stanford stings. But, for the most part, the Wildcats did a nice job. Pulling Davie from Duke was a good get, and all but nine prospects who made visits ended up signing.

> Fun facts: CB Justan Vaughn was a heavily recruited prospect from the Houston area. ...

Northwestern must cast a wide net to find players who fit. the school. So, it's no surprise that players from nine states, including three from Texas and three from Pennsylvania, were signed. Fisher was the No. 12 prospect in Illinois. ... Not only is Stefan Demos one of the nation's top kickers, he's one of the smartest. Demos has a 3.5 gradepoint average and scored a 1120 on the SAT. ... Wildcats assistant coach Garrick McGee has proved to be one of the Wildcats' best recruiters. He pulled in pledges from three quality players last season. But the loss of assistant coach James Patton to Oklahoma could hurt. Patton was successful in the St. Louis area for the Wildcats.

-Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

LEAD				No.	22
	At	t.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
	250) 1	474	5.9	16
	37	2	174	5.4	1
	3.	7	171	4.6	0
Comp.	Att.	Pc	t. Yds	. TD	Int.
6	15	40.0) 5	9 1	1
	Re	c.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
	7	9	862	10.9	6
	4	4	396	9.0	2
	2	4	378	15.8	1
RNS		No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
		21	468	22.3	0
		8	216	27.0	1
	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
	45	48	11	21	78
Solo	Assi	sts	Total	TFL	/Yds.
35	42		77	3.5	/11
35	36		71	3.5	/15
31	26		57	0.5	5/0
27	19		46	(0/0
34	12		46	-1	0/0
	Comp. 6 RNS Solo 35 35 31 27	Att. 250 33 33 Comp. Att. 6 15 Re 7 4 2 RNS XPM 45 Solo Assi: 35 42 35 36 31 26 27 19	Att. 250 1, 32 37 Comp. Att. Pc: 6 15 40.0 Rec. 79 44 24 24 RNS No. 21 8 XPM XPA 45 48 Solo Assists 35 42 35 36 31 26 27 19	Att. Yds. 250 1,474 32 174 37 171 Comp. Att. Pct. Yds. 6 15 40.0 5 Rec. Yds. 79 862 44 396 24 378 No. Yds. 21 468 8 216 XPM XPA FGM 45 48 11 Solo Assists Total 35 42 77 35 36 71 31 26 57 27 19 46	Att. Yds. Avg. 250 1,474 5.9 32 174 5.4 37 171 4.6 Comp. Att. Pct. Yds. TD 6 15 40.0 59 1 Rec. Yds. Avg. 79 862 10.9 44 396 9.0 24 378 15.8 RNS No. Yds. Avg. 21 468 22.3 8 216 27.0 XPM XPA FGM FGA 45 48 11 21 Solo Assists Total TFL, 35 42 77 3.5 35 36 71 3.5 31 26 57 0.5 27 19 46

Sacks: Mark Koehn, Kevin Mims (2) Interceptions: Cole (5)

KEY LOSSES

Offense QB Brett Basanez (314-of-497, 3,622 yards, 21 TDs, 8 int.; 113 att., 550 yards, 7 TDs); WR Jonathan Fields (60 rec., 555 yards); WR Mark Philmore (55 rec., 662 yards, 6 TDs); T Zach Strief.

Defense T Barry Cofield (63 tackles, 6.5 tackles for loss, 2 sacks); S Herschel Henderson (62 tackles, 3 int.); LB Tim McGarigle (teamhigh 156 tackles, team-high 7 tackles for loss, 2 sacks); P Ryan Pederson (45 punts, 39.6 avg.).

2005 TEAM STATISTICS

	Average	Rank
Rushing offense	193.6	5th Big Ten/26th nation
Rushing defense	218.1	10th/113th
Passing offense	306.8	1st/7th
Passing defense	262.3	10th/101st
Total offense	500.3	1st/4th
Total defense	480.4	11th/117th
Turnover differential	+9	2nd/T16th

2005 RESULTS (7-5, 5-3/T3rd Big Ten)

F000 11F00	mi a /1 a1	2 01 1010 819 1011	
Ohio	W, 38-14	Michigan	L, 33-17
Northern Illinois	W, 38-37	lowa	W, 28-27
at Arizona State	L, 52-21	at Ohio State	L, 48-7
Penn State	L, 34-29	at Illinois	W, 38-21
Wisconsin	W, 51-48	UCLA*	L, 50-38
at Purdue	W, 34-29	*Sun Bowl	
at Michigan State	W, 49-14		

TRACKING THE WINS

11	IRACKING THE WINS								*Bowl victory				ictory
C	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
05	Sún		T.	1	1	+	4	1 1	-	1	1	1	
04		1	1	1	1			-	-	1	1	-	
03	Moto	or Cit	ty	1	1		-	-	-	1	1	1	1
02		1	1	1	-		-	-	- 1	1	-		
01		-	1		9	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	

WILDCATE DOCTED

	LDCATS ROSTE	Ht./Wt.	CI.	Exp.	Hometown/previous school
				RTERBA	SUCCESSION CONTRACTOR AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
3	C.J. Bacher	6-2/200	So.	1L	Sacramento/Jesuit
2	Andrew Brewer	6-3/215	Fr.	RS	Tulsa, Okla./Jenks
3	Mike Kafka	6-3/205	Fr.	RS	Oak Lawn, III./Chicago St. Rita
9	Omar Conteh	6-0/205	So.	INING BA	Cypress, Texas/Cy-Fair
6	Terrell Jordan	5-10/200	Sr.	SO	Clarkston, Ga./Tucker
1	Brandon Roberson	5-9/200	Jr.	2L	Pearland, Texas/Pearland
3	Nathan Shanks	5-11/220	Jr.	SO	Taylorville, III./Taylorville
9	Tyrell Sutton	5-9/190	So.	1L	Akron, Ohio/Archbishop Hoban
				ERS/TIGH	
9	Frayne Abernathy (TE/FB)		Jr.	2L	North Augusta, S.C./North Augusta
12	Sam Cheatham Erryn Cobb (TE/FB)	5-10/200 6-1/255	Jr. Sr.	1L 3L	San Leandro, Calif./San Leandro Woodridge, III./Downers Grove North
11	Kevin Frymire	6-1/175	Fr.	RS	Burr Ridge, III./Nazareth Academy
1	Shaun Herbert	6-1/200	Sr.	3L	Oxon Hill, Md./Bishop McNamara
,	Brandon Horn	6-1/220	Sr.	3L	Farmington, Mich./Detroit Country Day
7	Tonjua Jones	6-2/185	Jr.	2L	Southfield, Mich./Southfield-Lathrup
	Ross Lane	6-3/190	So.	1L 2L	Ft. Myers, Fla./Bishop Verot
34	Kim Thompson Rasheed Ward	6-4/195 5-10/175	Jr. So.	1L	Inkster, Mich./Detroit Country Day Chicago/Harper
-	Jeff Yarbrough	5-11/180	So.	1L	Richton Park, III./Rich South
	our randrough			NSIVE LI	
2	Joel Belding (C)	6-3/300	So.	1L	Seville, Ohio/Cloverleaf
55	Thomas Bemenderfer (T)	6-5/280	Fr.	RS	Mishawaka, Ind./Penn
8	Tyler Compton	6-5/305	Fr.	RS	Humble, Texas/Humble
77	Adam Crum (G)	6-1/295	Jr.	SQ	Anchor Point, Alaska/Homer Morris, III./Morris
60 66	Ramon Diaz Ryan Keenan (G)	6-4/280	Fr. Sr.	RS 3L	Westlake, Ohio/Saint Edward
78	Kurt Mattes (T)	6-6/285	Fr.	RS	Larksville, Pa./Wyoming Valley West
52	Austin Matthews (T)	6-5/305	Jr.	1L	Orange Park, Fla./Orange Park
73	Fred McConnell	6-3/310	Jr.	SO	Southfield, Mich./Southfield-Lathrup
50	Trevor Rees (C)	6-2/285	Jr.	2L	Pearland, Texas/Pearland
59	Alex Rucks (G)	6-4/300	So.	50	Lincolnshire, III./Stevenson
51	Dylan Thiry (T) Joe Tripodi (G)	6-8/315	Jr. Sr.	2L 1L	Louisville, Ky./Trinity Chelsea, Mich./Chelsea
31	Jue Hillori (e)	0-3/310		NSIVE LII	
58	Warren Anderson (T)	6-3/270	Jr.	SQ LI	Ventura, Calif./St. Bonaventure
57	Matt Clark (T)	6-3/290	So.	SO	Orlando/Lake Highland Prep
70	John Gill (T)	6-3/295	So.	1L	Los Altos Hills, Calif./Bellarmine College Prep
79	Adam Hahn	6-4/290	Fr.	RS	Hartford, Wis./Hartford Union
71	Tanner Highlen	6-2/280	Fr.	RS	Peoria, Ariz./Centennial
92	Keegan Kennedy (T)	6-3/280	So.	11	Jupiter, Fla./Cardinal Newman
91 95	Mark Koehn (E) Kevin Mims (E)	6-3/270	Jr. So.	1L 1L	Newton, Kan./Newton The Woodlands, Texas/The Woodlands
72	David Ngene (E)	6-3/260	Jr.	2L	Humble, Texas/Humble
76	Desmond Taylor	6-3/275	Fr.	RS	Los Angeles/Loyola
99	Corey Wootton (E)	6-6/255	So.	1L	Rutherford, N.J./Don Bosco Prep
			L	NEBACKI	
46	Malcolm Arrington	6-2/230	So.	1L	Rochester Hills, Mich./Orchard Lake St. Mary's
37	Campbell Black	6-3/225	Sr.	1L	Oklahoma City/Bishop McGuinness
31	Mike Dinard	6-2/230	So. Sr.	1L 2L	Parma, Ohio/Padua Franciscan Milwaukee/Milwaukee Vincent
42 50	Demetrius Eaton Chris Jeske	6-0/230	Fr.	RS	Yorkville, Ill./Joliet Catholic Academy
48	Rejaie Johnson	6-1/230	So.	SO	La Marque, Texas/La Marque
43	Adam Kadela	6-2/245	Jr.	2L	Dublin, Ohio/Dublin Coffman
36	Prince Kwateng	6-2/225	So.	1L	Munster, Ind./Munster
82	Chris Malleo	6-3/225	Jr.	2L	Wall Township, N.J./The Hun School of Princeton
38	Nick Roach	6-2/245 6-0/230	Sr.	3L	Milwaukee/Milwaukee Lutheran Houston/North Shore
40	Eddie Simpson	6-0/230	Jr.	2L ENSIVE I	
22	Deante Battle (CB)	5-10/180	Jr.	2L	Fayetteville, Ga./Starr's Mill
34	Andre Butler (S)	5-11/180	So.	SO	Dolton, III./Thornwood
20	Marquice Cole (CB)	5-10/185	Sr.	3L	Hazel Crest, III./Hillcrest
6	Cory Dious (CB)	5-9/170	Sr.	2L	Atlanta/Mays
49	Tim Downing (CB)	5-8/175	So.	50	Novi, Mich./Northville
23	Gerard Hamlett (CB)	5-10/190	So.	1L 3L	Fort Lauderdale, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas Lone Tree, Colo./Highlands Ranch
21	Bryan Heinz (SS) Akeem Hunter (SS)	6-2/215 5-11/210	Sr. So.	SO	Chicago/Leo
27	Reggie McPherson (FS)	6-1/190	Jr.	2L	San Leandro, Calif./San Leandro
16	David Oredugba (CB)	6-2/190	So.	SO	Sherman Oaks, Calif./Beverly Hills
10	Eric Peterman (CB)	6-1/200	So.	11.	Sherman, III./Springfield Sacred Heart-Griffin
47	Chaz Richart (CB)	5-10/180	So.	50	North Vernon, Ind./Jennings County
45	Ben Rothrauff (SS)	5-10/195	Jr.	2L	Columbus, Ohio/St. Francis DeSales Andover, Mass./New Hampton Prep
39	Brendan Smith (FS)	6-1/215	So.	1L	
94	Phil Brunner (LS)	6-1/225	So.	SPECIALI SO	South Milwaukee, Wis./South Milwaukee
97	Kyle Daley (K/P)	6-0/190	So.	50	Arlington, Texas/Lamar
93	Joel Howells (K)	6-4/225	Sr.	21	Sycamore, III./Sycamore
15	Slade Larscheid (K/P)	6-1/210	Sr.	1L	Spearfish, S.D./Spearfish
	Amado Villarreal (K/P)	5-10/175	So.	SQ	Englewood, Colo./Englewood

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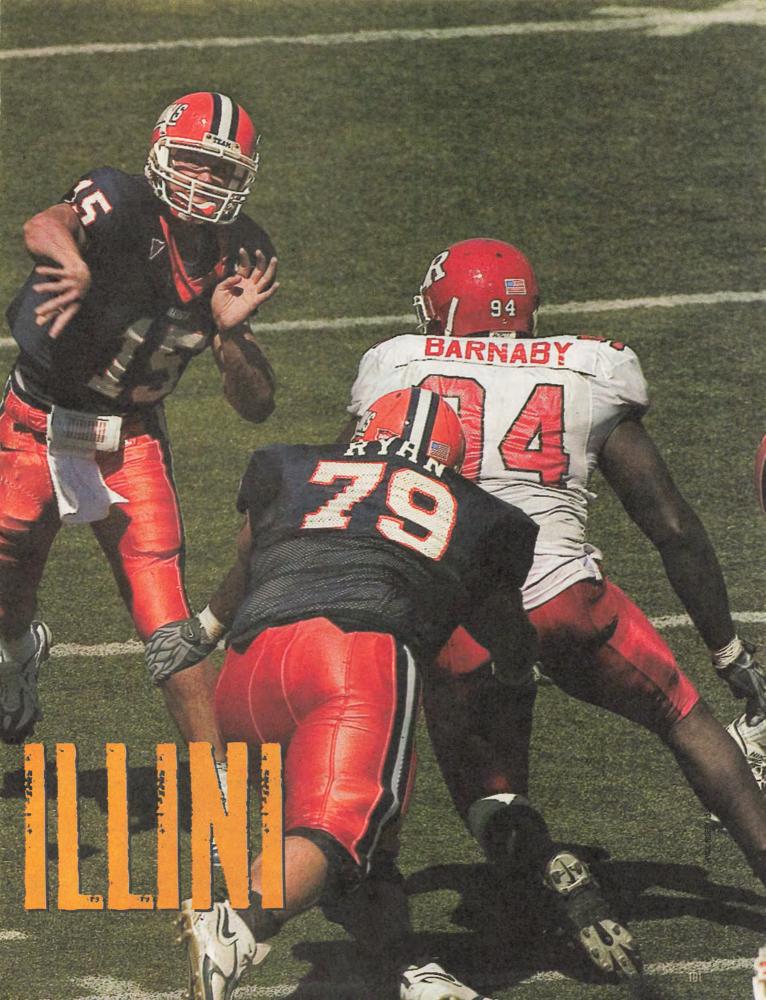
he definition of a "light year" is the distance light travels in a 365-day period. By the end of the 2006 season, there might be a new definition: two or three wins.

Illinois coach Ron Zook insists his team is "light years" ahead of where it was when he took over last winter, and that's great news for Illini fans. But those who expect an immediate return to Big Ten contention had better slow down because there still is a long way to go.

Illinois remains a young team with little depth and few proven performers. A solid '06 recruiting class has delivered some playmakers, but they aren't likely to make a big impact this season even if they get significant playing time.

Still, There should be progress, even if it won't result in a trip to a bowl or be tangible in the win-loss column. Illinois will be better because of improved talent, a better grasp of the coaching staff's schemes and an improved commitment.

Story: Michael Bradley Photo: QB Tim Brasic



Date	Opponent	What it means
Sept. 2	Eastern Michigan	Perfect time to see if passing attack has improved—and to score 50 points.
Sept. 9	at Rutgers	Circle this result. Win or lose, it will be referenced throughout the season.
Sept. 16	Syracuse	There's no better year to play Syracuse. Time to pounce—and build confidence.
Sept. 23	lowa	It'll be a loss, but make sure you judge the quality of the loss. That's the key.
Sept. 30	at Michigan State	A league road game against a beatable opponent. Sounds like an ideal yardstick.
Oct. 7	Indiana	This one is for bragging rights. You know, bragging about not finishing last in the Big Ten.
Oct. 14	Ohio	Illinois has lost to teams like this at home in recent years. Time to prove those days are over
Oct. 21	at Penn State	Call this a "victory" if the Illini are playing hard in the fourth quarter.
Oct. 28	at Wisconsin	Another hostile environment where not getting blown out would be something positive.
Nov. 4	Ohio State	It'll be a slaughter. But the Illini can't forget the feeling of getting their faces rubbed in it.
Nov. 11	Purdue	Don't count on recapturing the Cannon. But lopsided losses to Purdue have to end.
Nov. 18	at Northwestern	It might be possible to reclaim the Sweet Sioux Tomahawk—and a modicum of state pride.

where the key is beating Rutgers and/or Syracuse. Lose both, and it could be Tanksville. The Illini might be playing for pride after back-to-back late October games at Penn State and at Wisconsin. Winning more than one Big Ten game should be considered a success.

-Comments and predictions by Sporting News

'There will be progress, but not

TSN pick

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Ten. are over.

much. Close losses will be considered victory. The Illini still are woefully undermanned on defense,

> Ron Zook will get another mulligan, but this will be his last one.' For more of Tom Dienhart's take on Illinois. go to www.sportingnews.com

and the quarterbacks stink.

Views from a pro scout or an opposing coach

being the best player in the league, who knows? ... In their offense, you have to be able to throw the ball. Because if a defense can load up on them, they can't run the ball in that offense. The

only way they can run the ball is to get people to defend the pass. They didn't have enough balance on offense to keep defenses from loading up to stop the run. ... RBs E.B. Halsey and Pierre Thomas are OK. I don't think they're in the upperechelon of our league. RB Rashard Mendenhall is really good. He's a special player. They have no receivers. I didn't see any differencemakers. ... The offensive line wasn't very good. But you can hide some guys in an offense. Most teams will have players on the field who can get them beat. The key is limiting that number. But people find them. ... I didn't see anything on defense. I thought you could run the ball on them. They back-slid a lot on defense last year. I was surprised by that. They were young in places where it's tough to be young, like linebacker. I think they're banking on some of these young players improving.

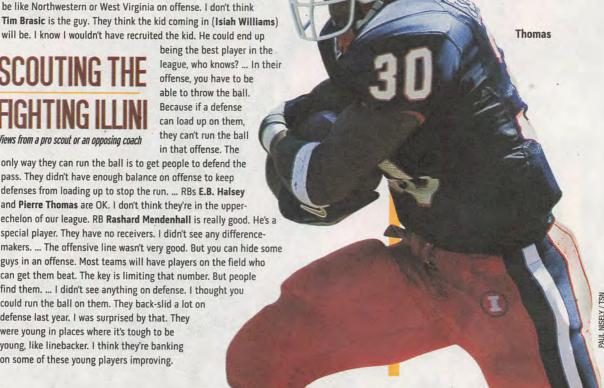
This probably was the worst Big Ten team we played last year.

There's a lack of playmakers. They have a long way to go. This

Obviously, Ron Zook doesn't have his guys in the program. But

I don't know about him. I think he's more sizzle than substance. ... I wasn't real fired up about their quarterback. They are trying to

should be one of the four or five best jobs in the Big Ten. ...



INSIDE THE

Backfield There were times last year when Tim Brasic was impressive and a Big Tencaliber quarterback. He led the Illini to an exciting 33-30 overtime comeback win over Rutgers, threw for 200 or more yards six times and had five multiple-touchdown games. But he also threw for just 49 yards against Purdue and Penn State and was intercepted twice in losses to Michigan State, Indiana and Purdue. Brasic has an adequate arm and can move a little bit, a fact evidenced by his 420 rushing yards.

Though Brasic missed time during spring drills to work on academics, he clearly is the No. 1 man. However, he'll be pushed by mega freshman Isiah "Juice" Williams. He's a deadly athlete with a rocket arm, which Brasic lacks. Williams didn't enroll early but hung around most of the spring. He wants the job—badly.

Illinois returns a pair of experienced backs, E.B. Halsey and Pierre Thomas. Neither is a blazer or star, but each is capable. Thomas can run inside or outside and has proved to be a solid receiver. Halsey is reliable in short-yardage passing situations. Plus, he has some

O'Donnell

wiggle. The best back is Rashard Mendenhall, a uber recruit who should have redshirted last year as a freshman. But he got his feet wet and is ready to go. Mendenhall is the total package.

Receivers There are only two legit options: Kyle Hudson and Derrick McPhearson.

Hudson is a classic overachiever who surprised the staff with his speed, athletic ability and hands last season. He reminds some of former Illini Greg Lewis. McPhearson looks the part of a Big Ten receiver—and he often plays like one, too. He's the deep threat.

The staff is working hard to upgrade. Don't be shocked to see incoming freshmen Marques Wilkins and Chris James get every chance to prove they're ready for prime-time.

Wilkins might have an edge because he arrived in time for spring practice. Each has decent size and plenty of speed. The other options are little more than journeymen.

Illinois likes H-back-type tight ends, so 270-pounders need not apply. J.R. Kraemer is the starter, but the staff doesn't trust him as a blocker. That means a few freshmen will get extended auditions: Michael Hoomanawanul and Jeff Cumberland. In the end, don't expect much production from this spot this fall.

Line Even though five starters return, there have been changes. That's good because the Illini scored just nine rushing touchdowns last year, and quarter-

backs were sacked 32 times.

Oklahoma transfer Akim Millington is a stallion. A former starter for the Sooners and an Illinois naive, the left tackle is the

unit's best lineman—hands down. And the staff is excited about right tackle Charles Myles, who moved from defense late last year, lost weight and is ready to shine. He's mammoth.

The interior is filled with interchangable parts for a unit that will rotate as many as eight players. Ryan McDonald has found a home at

center after being overwhelmed at right tackle last year. Left guard Martin O'Donnell hasn't been as good as expected, but he's a servicable blocker and only player back at his old spot. Matt Maddox moves from center to right guard. He's good. In fact, he rates right behind Millington in terms of skill, talent and tenacity. Reserves J.J. Simmon's and James Ryan have starting experience.

PHILOSOPHY

The Illini strive for balance, with an emphasis on the running game and the ability to control the ball, even though they use a lot of three-wideout sets. Remember that Ron Zook is a defensive coach, first and foremost, and he doesn't want to put extra stress on that side of the ball. Illinois will throw downfield at times, but don't expect a wide-open, shoot-'em-up style of play.

III PLAYER

RB Rashard Mendenhall had only 48 carries last year, but he flashed the potential many had buzzed about when he arrived in Champaign in 2005 as one of the school's biggest recruits in recent years. Mendenhall is fast and strong. And if he gets the opportunity—Ron Zook would be crazy to hold him back—the sophomore has the potential to be a big-time back.

4	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
A 30	WR	21	Kyle Hudson	5-11	165	So.
	WW	28	Jacob Willis	5-11	180	Jr.
	LT	69	Akim Millington A	6-6	310	Jr.
	Li	57	J.J. Simmons	6-5	290	Jr.
	LG	64	Martin O'Donnell	6-5	300	Jr.
	LG	69	Ben Amundsen	6-5	310	Jr.
					2000	
	C	60	Ryan McDonald	6-5	300	So.
	ac in	62	Eric Block	6-3	290	So.
LLL	RG	67	Matt Maddox 🛦	6-3	310	Sr.
		79	James Ryan	6-5	315	Jr.
	RT	76	Charles Myles	6-6	320	Sr.
		68	Jim LaBonte	6-7	305	Jr.
144	TE	87	J.R. Kraemer	6-5	235	So.
			Michael Hoomanawanui*	6-5	230	Fr.
	WR	29	Jody Ellis	6-0	195	So.
		8	DaJuan Warren	6-2	205	Jr.
	WR	4	Derrick McPhearson A	6-0	195	So.
0-1-1		3	Marques Wilkins*	6-0	185	Fr.
-	QB	15	Tim Brasic	6-2	200	Sr.
			Isiah Williams*	6-2	207	Fr.
	RB	30	Pierre Thomas	5-11	210	Sr.
		26	E.B. Halsey	5-10	200	Sr.
	K	13	Jason Reda	6-1	200	Jr.
	KR	30	Pierre Thomas	5-11	210	Sr.
1			starters in bold *True fres			
-			ospect			
3	-	- 1			Wall.	



Line The unit leaves a lot to be desired after an unispiring spring.

If there's a strength, it's the ends. Derek Walker is the best. He has added bulk to his athletic ability and should be the team's top pass rusher. Xavier Fulton is coming off a knee injury that ruined his spring, and Sirod Williams was slowed in the spring by an injured shin. That created a chance for redshirt freshman Doug Pilcher. He's a maniac who has gotten bigger. Plus: The native son bleeds Orange and Blue. Remond Willis moved from linebacker to be a situational pass rusher for a team that had just 12 sacks last season.

Tackle is more problematic. Chris Norwell has one spot locked down. He's the real deal, though the staff has to

motivate him at times. Still, he should be one of the Big Ten's best. His partner figures to be sawed-off Josh Norris, a Tasmanian devil. What Norris lacks in height, he compensates for with megastrength. The

backups? David Lindquist and Tremayne Walker are lunch-pail guys. Nothing special.

Linebackers Every player who started at least one game at linebacker in '06 returns, but things have been shaken up, and the early returns offer hope.

J Leman has moved to the middle from the outside. The coaches feel he's better equipped to handle the rough stuff inside. Plus, Leman is a smart guy who can get everyone lined up. He'll never be a star, but he's servicable.

Leman will be flanked on the strong side by Brit Miller, who became a force once he moved into the starting lineup late last year in place of Anthony Thornhill. Miller has the ability to become a standout and has been more than the coaches anticipated. He runs well and has a nose for the ball, but he must get more comfortable working in space.

The weakside spot figures to go to Antonio Steele, a quick junior college transfer who arrived in time for spring drills. He's everything the staff thought he'd be. Steele can defend the run sideline to sideline and cover. Better yet: He's a leader who has injected much-needed enthusiasm and on-field chatter.

The depth looks solid. Sam Carson is a burly sort in the middle.

Thornhill is a former starter. Rodney Pittman offers athletic ability, a commodity this defense can't get enough of.

Secondary Here's the problem spot. Opponents completed 66 percent of their passes last season with 27 touchdowns. Illinois

picked off Just four passes. That has to get better, though Ron Zook admits that a big improvement is unlikely because the team lacks depth.

The safeties look solid, most notably strong safety Kevin Mitchell. If the unit has a star, he's it. Mitchell, who led the team in tackles in '05, is a bone-crusher who keeps getting better. Free safety Justin Harrison understands the defense but lacks fluid

skills. That's why junior college transfer Justin Sanders might take over. The coaches love his instincts and savvy.

Cornerback is a concern. One guy the staff won't worry about is Alan Ball, who can close on the ball and make plays. He possesses size and is the team's top cover man. Sharriff Abdullah is penciled in at the other corner, but don't be shocked if he's replaced. Really soon. Abdullah is a little guy with speed and durability, but he's often overmatched. No doubt, prep school product Dere Hicks has more talent. He arrived in time for spring drills to get a jump start on things. The picture could get more jumbled in the fall, when highly-touted freshmen Chris Duvalt and Yonate Davis arrive.

PHILOSOPHY

New coordinator Vince Okruch wants to attack. The question is whether an inexperienced secondary will allow him to turn the front seven loose, or if the Illini will have to settle for occasional blitzes and presnap subterfuge. Expect Illinois to keep things simple. Big plays must be limited. Illinois yielded 15 touchdowns of 30 or more yards last year and allowed 435 points, a school record.

BREAR OUTPLAYER

CB Dere Hicks had an impressive prep season at Valley Forge Military Academy (Pa.). He picked off five passes and returned three for touchdowns. Hicks also played quarterback for the undefeated team, throwing six TD passes and running for six more. Think the Illini could use an athlete like that in the secondary? You bet. Hicks might not start right away, but he has a chance to make a big impact.

10000		100			1000	
	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	E	95	Doug Pilcher	6-5	260	Fr.
		98	Xavier Fulton	6-5	265	Jr.
-	T	65	Josh Norris	5-11	270	Sr.
	10-1-1	85	David Lindquist	6-3	280	So
N. S. S. S. S.	T	96	Chris Norwell A	6-6	290	Jr.
	6.5	93	Tremayne Walker	6-3	285	So
	E	91	Derek Walker	6-4	270	So.
		81	Will Davis	6-3	235	So
	SLB	44	Brit Miller	6-1	245	So
		45	Rodney Pittman	6-2	235	Fr.
	MLB	47	J Leman	6-2	240	Jr.
		43	Sam Carson	6-1	245	So
	WLB	40	Antonio Steele 🛦	6-0	210	Jr.
1		51	Anthony Thornhill	6-1	220	Jr.
1919	CB	22	Sharriff Abdullah	5-8	170	Sr.
			Vontae Davis*	6-0	184	Fr.
TOTAL PARTY	FS	25	Justin Sanders	6-0	205	Jr.
		32	Justin Harrison	5-11	220	Jr.
	SS	42	Kevin Mitchell 🛦	6-0	200	Jr.
		25	Justin Sanders	6-1	205	Jr.
-	CB	18	Alan Ball 🛦	6-1	175	Jr.
300		28	Dere Hicks*	5-10	175	Fr.
1900	P	37	Kyle Yelton*	6-0	180	Fr.
	PR	26	E.B. Halsey	5-10	200	Sr.
		-	starters in bold *True fre spect	eshman		

2-MINUTE DRILL WITH SS KEVIN MITCHELL

Bet you don't know this about coach Ron Zook: He has his pilot license. He flew with the Blue Angels two years ago. He showed me the pictures they took of him while he was up there—he passed out.

The team with the meanest fans: lowa. They're right up on you. Every time you come back to the sideline, you hear somebody yelling at you. Purdue is tough for me, too, though. Being from Indiana like I am, people get on you.

My breakthrough moment as a college player: My first game



as a starting safety. I tore my rotator cuff when I first got here and was out forever because of that. Then I was a backup all my freshman year. Finally, being able to come in with a new staff, it was amazing to me that I got to be the starter.

The best and worst things about Champaign: It's an environment where everybody is really supportive of the team. And you only have to be 19 to get into clubs, so everybody can go to the same place. It's not a big city. Other than going out on Friday night, there's nowhere to go, really, just to hang out.

QUICK HITS

Where they play

Stadium: Memorial (artificial, 69,249) Site: Champaign, III. Tickets: 866-455-4641

What they run

Offensive scheme: Multiple Defensive scheme: Multiple

The last time

They won a league title: 2001 They played in a bowl: 2001

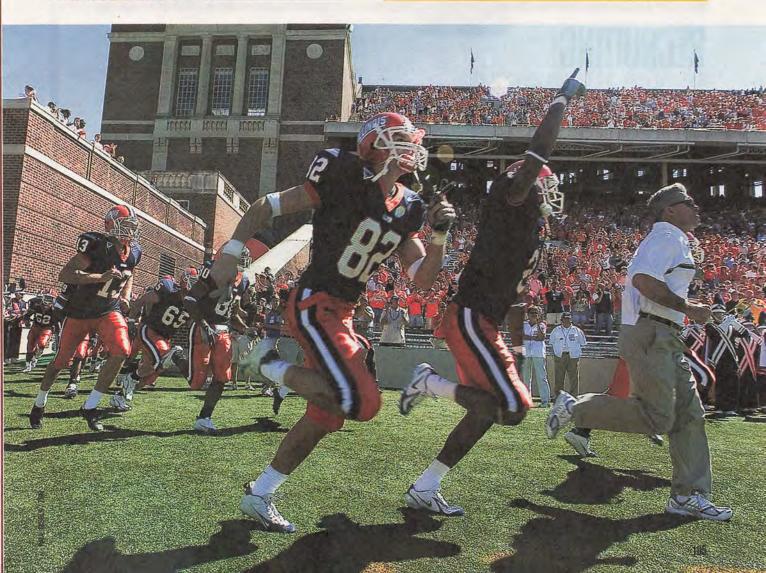
Coaching staff

Head coach: Ron Zook (2-9, 1 year; 25-23 overall, 4 years) Assistant head coach/running backs/ recruiting coordinator: Reggie Mitchell (2nd year) Offensive coordinator/tight ends: Mike Locksley (2nd year)

Defensive coordinator/linebackers: Vince Okruch (1st year)

Wide receivers: Dino Dawson (2nd year) Special teams/outside linebackers:

Dan Disch (2nd year)
Secondary: Curt Mallory (2nd year)
Defensive line: Tom Sims (2nd year)
Running game coordinator/offensive
line: Ed Warinner (2nd year)



NISELY / TSN

PAUL

Zook

COACHING

Ron Zook is an enthusiastic teacher who believes he could beat the Steelers with a Division III team, if he could just get the players to buy into his vision. It won't be easy to improve the morale and outlook of the Illini program, but Zook might be one of the few who is up to the

> challenge. Of course, that rah-rah stuff only goes so far. Fortunately,

he is an excellent recruiter who can bring in players from outside Illinois.

Hiring Vince Okruch as the new defensive coordinator was a great move. He's a proven winner who built successful defenses at Colorado and Northwestern and has the straight-forward personality

needed to help turn things around. He'll attack

when he can and come up with enough windowdressing to hide the trouble spots that haven't been upgraded.

There was an unexpected spring transition on the offensive side. Passing game coordinator Ed Zaunbrecher left at the beginning of spring drills to take the co-offensive coordinator's job at Purdue, and Zook didn't plan on filling the position until after spring practice. Offensive coordinator Mike Locksley, who has a background working with running backs, took over duties as quarterbacks coach during the spring, so the Illini might have taken a small step back in terms of teaching the offense with Zaunbrecher's departure.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Illini welcome back kicker Jason Reda, who was solid but hardly spectacular. He made just 13 of 20 field goal attempts, including 5-of-8 from 30-39 yards and 2-of-4 from 40-49 yards. When he was given the chance to kick off-seven times-he put two into the end zone.

Three-time all-Big Ten punter Steve Weatherford is gone. Kyle Yelton, a true freshman who enrolled early, will get the job. He averaged 42 yards per kick last year as a prep senior and also handled placement duties.

Pierre Thomas is a strong kick return man who averaged 23.0 yards per try, but Illinois needs help bringing back punts. E.B. Halsey managed just 4.6 yards per try. The coverage units, which were awful, must be improved.

National rank 31 Conference rank 4

Ht./wt. Hometown/school **** Among the nation's top 30 prospects

None

*** Among the nation's top 200 prospects

Jeff Cumberland	ATH	6-4/230	Columbus/Brookhaven
Chris Duvalt	DB	5-10/159	Lakeland, Fla./Lake Gibson
Chris James	WR	6-0/177	Chicago/Morgan Park
Rahkeem Smith	LB	6-1/220	Lombard, III./Hargrave Military Acad. (Va.)
Marques Wilkins	WR	6-0/182	Decatur, III./MacArthur
Isiah Williams	OB	6-2/207	Chicago/Vocational
	+++ Amon	n the nation	's ton 500 prospects

Travon Bellamy DR 6-0/178 Greenbelt, Md./Eleanor Roosevelt 6-4/262 Jerry Brown DE St. Louis/Vashon **Vontae Davis** DB 6-0/184 Washington, D.C./Dunbar **Garrett Edwards** DB 6-2/192 Downers Grove, III./North Michael Hoomanawanui 6-5/230 Bloomington, III./Central Catholic TE Randall Hunt 6-6/286 Highstown, N.J./Valley Forge Military (Pa.) OL Anterio Jackson LB 6-2/240 Chicago/Fenger Antonio James 6-5/252 Massillon, Ohio/Washington DE **Dustin Jefferson** LB 6-0/203 Kankakee, III./Kankakee **Justin Sanders** DB 6-1/205 Pearl, Miss./Northeast Mississippi C.C. Antonio Steele LB 6-0/210 Cleveland/Long Beach City College (Calif.) Craig Wilson OL 6-5/290 Harvey, III./Thornton

	**	Solid Divisio	on I prospects
Jon Asamoah	OL .	6-5/265	Park Forest, III./Rich East
Antonio Gully	DB	6-0/175	St. Louis/Cardinal Ritter
Dere Hicks	DB	5-10/175	Roanoke, Va./Valley Forge Military (Pa.)
Brandon Jordan	0L	6-5/290	Merrillville, Ind./Merrillville
Eddie McGee	QB	6-4/189	Washington, D.C./H.D. Woodson
Joe Morgan	WR	6-2/175	Canton, Ohio/McKinley
Clay Nurse	DE	6-3/235	Beltsville, Md./High Point
Ryan Palmer	OL	6-7/298	Canton, Ohio/Glen Oak
Kyle Yelton	K/P	6-0/180	Chesterton, Ind./Chesterton

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM Biggest get: QB Isiah

> Williams has a rocket for an arm and plenty of confidence to go with it. Williams predicts he will be the opening-game starter.

Biggest miss: WR Kenny Britt (Bayonne, N.J./ Bayonne) committed to Illinois after an official visit in January, and the staff thought it had him locked up. However, right before signing day, Britt switched to Rutgers, which is closer to his home. He would have formed a great 1-2 punch with Williams.

Instant impact: Chris James is one of the best receivers in the nation. He has grown since the end of his senior season, making him a big target in an offense that is desperate for playmakers. Marques Wilkins is another touted wideout who had myriad offers from prominent programs.

Diamond in the rough: DE Antonio James, who played for one of the top programs in Ohio, was a relative unknown as a junior. But he had a monster senior season and improved his strength and body. He now has a college-ready frame to go with his great motor. James could be

one of the bigger steals in the Big Ten.

Battleground: It's all about defending home turf and doing well in Chicago. Mission accomplished—to a degree.

> Illinois got four of the top 15 players in the state. However, QB Demetrius Jones (Chicago/Morgan Park), the top player in the state, signed with

Notre Dame.

Fun facts: Illinois signed two players the St. Louis area, a region that had been fertile recruiting ground for the Illini under John Mackovic and Lou Tepper. ... Junior college LB Antonio Steele is the younger brother of former USC and NFL LB Markus. Fellow junior college transfer DB Justin Sanders' father, John, also played in the NFL. ... Reggie Mitchell and Mike Locksley continue to show why they're considered two of the nation's best recruiters. Locksley arrived at Illinois with a great reputation for recruiting after excelling at Florida for Ron Zook. Mitchell is an up-and-coming coach who did a great job this year. His ability to relate to kids often gives him an edge.

-Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

RUSHING		Att.	1	ds.	Avg.	TD
Pierre Thomas		127		664	5.2	5
Tim Brasic		151		120	2.8	3
E.B. Halsey		84		349	4.2	1
Rashard Mendenhall		48		218	4.5	0
PASSING	Comp.	Att.	Pct	. Yds	. TD	Int.
Tim Brasic	206	337	61.1	1,979) 11	11
RECEIVING		Rec.		Yds.	Avg.	TD
Kyle Hudson		31		469	15.1	1
Pierre Thomas		28		225	8.0	1
DaJuan Warren		21		205	9.8	0
E.B. Halsey		38		185	4.9	2
KICK/PUNT RETU	RNS	N	lo.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Pierre Thomas		- 1	20	461	23.0	0
E.B. Halsey		1	23	217	9.4	0
KICKING		XPM 2	KPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Jason Reda		20	20	13	20	59
TACKLES	Solo	Assist	s	Total	TFL	Yds.
Kevin Mitchell	49	29		78	4.5	/11
J Leman	37	30		67	5.5	/12
Justin Harrison	41	22		63	1.5	5/4
Alan Ball	45	10		55	4	1/9
Remond Willis	30	24		54	6.5/	30

Sacks: Chris Norwell (3) Interceptions: Ball, Harrison, Willis (1)

KEY LOSSES

Offense FB Jason Davis; WR Kendrick Jones (20 rec., 275 yards, 1 TD); QB Chris Pazan (16-of-34, 182 yards, 1 TD, 3 int.).

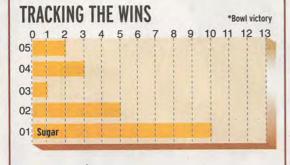
Defense CB James Cooper (40 tackles); S Kyle Kleckner (21 tackles); T Ryan Matha (19 tackles, 4 tackles for loss); S Morris Virgil (33 tackles); P Steve Weatherford (67 punts, 42.6 avg.).

2005 TEAM STATISTICS

FOOD I FILLI			
	Average	Rank	
Rushing offense	158.2	10th Big Ten/47th nation	
Rushing defense	234.0	11th/117th	
Passing offense	196.5	11th/87th	ı
Passing defense	235.3	5th/76th	
Total offense	354.6	10th/72nd	
Total defense	469.3	10th/115th	
Turnover differential	-11	11th/T109th	

2005 RESULTS (2-9, 0-8/11th Big Ten)

Rutgers	W, 33-30 (OT)	Penn State	L, 63-10
San Jose State	W, 40-19	Wisconsin	L, 41-24
at California	L, 35-20	at Ohio State	L, 40-2
Michigan State	L, 61-14	at Purdue	L, 37-3
at Iowa	L, 35-7	Northwestern	L, 38-21
at Indiana	L, 36-13		



FI	GHTING ILLINI	ROST	ER		
	. Name	Ht./Wt.	CI.	Exp.	Hometown/previous school
9	Paul Blalock	6-0/200	Fr.	RS	Aurora, III./Waubonsie Valley
5	Tim Brasic	6-2/200	Sr.	2L	Riverside, III./Riverside-Brookfield
1	Kisan Flakes	5-11/195	So.	SO	Lovejoy, Ga./Lovejoy
2	Billy Garza	6-1/225	So.	SO	Brownsville, Texas/Porter
)	Mark Venegoni	6-1/210	So.	50	Gurnee, III./Carmel
	F.D. Heless	r 10/000		NNING BA	
6	E.B. Halsey	5-10/200	Sr. Jr.	SQ SQ	Elizabeth, N.J./Elizabeth Chesterfield, Mo./Lafayette
3	Justin Ijei Nick Levanti	5-8/215 6-0/230	So.	SO	Champaign, III./Centennial
3	Rashard Mendenhall	5-11/210	So.	1L	Skokie, III./Niles West
4	Walter Mendenhall (FB)	6-0/225	So.	1L	Skokie, III./Niles West
0	Pierre Thomas	5-11/210	Sr.	3L	Lynwood, III./Thornton Fractional South
1	Russ Weil (FB)	6-0/240	Jr.	2L	Minooka, III./Minooka
			RECEIV	/ERS/TIGH	IT ENDS
4	Charles Bailey	6-1/195	Jr.	2L	Ft. Wayne, Ind./Northrop
	Bryant Creamer	6-2/200	So.	11.	Chicago/Simeon
9	Jody Ellis	6-0/195	So.	1L	Evanston, III./Evanston Township
2	Kieron Frazier Kyle Hudson	6-3/190 5-11/165	Jr. So.	SQ 1L	Mason, Ohio/Cherry Hill East Mattoon, III./Mattoon
	Spencer Jensen	6-1/185	Jr.	1L	Homer Glen, III./Lockport Township
7	J.R. Kraemer (TE)	6-5/235	So.	1L	Wildwood, Mo./Lafayette
2	Frank Lenti	6-2/185	Jr.	1L	South Holland, III./Mt. Carmel
6	Greg McClendon	6-2/220	So.	1L	Columbus, Ga./Carver
	Derrick McPhearson	6-0/195	So.	1L	Hyattsville, Md./Fork Union Military Acad. (Va.)
4	Edgar Mourans	6-1/190	Jr.	50	Niles, III./Niles North
3	Mike Nabolotny (TE)	6-5/250	So.	50	Glenview, III./Glenbrook South
5	Jay Ramshaw (TE)	6-4/245	Jr.	SO	Champaign, III./Centennial
9	Tom Sullivan (TE)	6-4/225	Fr.	RS	Tinley Park, III./Marist
8	DaJuan Warren	6-2/205 5-11/180	Jr.	SO SO	Southfield, Mich./Southfield
0	Jacob Willis	3-11/100	Jr.		Champaign, III./Joliet J.C.
0	Dan Amundaan (C)	C E /210	200	NSIVE LIN	
9	Ben Amundsen (G) Will Bergen	6-5/310 6-4/275	Jr. Fr.	1L RS	Moline, III./Moline Tampa/Middleton
2	Eric Block (C)	6-3/290	So.	1L	New Orleans/Jesuit
9	Kam Buckner	6-2/265	Jr.	SQ	Chicago/Morgan Park
5	Jonathan Connor	6-2/290	So.	SO	Lake Forest, III./Lake Forest
8	Jim LaBonte (T)	6-7/305	Jr.	2L	Lombard, III./Montini Catholic
7	Matt Maddox (G)	6-3/310	Sr.	3L	Manasquan, N.J./Manasquan
0 :	Ryan McDonald (C)	6-5/300	So.	1L	Holland, Mich./West Ottawa
9	Akim Millington (T)	6-6/310	Jr.	TR	Norman, Okla./University of Oklahoma
8	Dan Motuliak	6-3/300	So.	20	Lafayette, Ind./Jefferson
6	Charles Myles (T)	6-6/320	Sr.	1L	Chicago/Harper
9	Martin O'Donnell (G)	6-5/300	Jr. Jr.	2L 2L	Downers Grove, III./Downers Grove South Batavia, III./Batavia
0	James Ryan (G) Trevor Scott	6-3/280	Fr.	RS	Fort Valley, Ga./Peach County
7	J.J. Simmons (T)	6-5/290	Sr.	3L	Mishawaka, Ind./Penn
'n	o.o. ommono (1)	0 0/270		NSIVE LIN	
2	Arthur Boyd (T)	6-2/275	Sr.	3L	Shaker Heights, Ohio/Shaker Heights
5	Immanuel Chu (T)	6-2/280	Fr.	RS	Woodstock, Ga./Woodstock
1	Will Davis (E)	6-3/235	So.	11.	Greenbelt, Md./Eleanor Roosevelt
8	Xavier Fulton (E)	6-5/265	Jr.	2L	Flossmoor, III./Homewood-Flossmoor
5	David Lindquist (T)	6-3/280	So.	11.	Highland Park, III./Highland Park
5	Josh Norris (T)	5-11/270	Sr.	2L	Springfield, III./Sacred Heart Griffin
6	Chris Norwell (T)	6-6/290	Jr.	2L	Cincinnati/Anderson
5	Doug Pilcher (E)	6-5/260	Fr.	RS	Hinsdale, III./Hindsdale Central
2	Sam Porter	6-1/240	Fr.	RS	Chicago/Morgan Park
3	Jeff Sobol Derek Walker (E)	6-3/260	So.	50	Pevely, Mo./Herculaneum Glendale Heights, III./Glenbard East
3	Tremayne Walker (T)	6-4/270 6-3/290	So.	1L 1L	Tallahassee, Fla./James Rickards
6	Mike Ware (T)	6-3/275	Jr.	TR	Naperville, III./Wheaton College
8	Bryson Whalen (E)	6-5/245	Fr.	RS	Freeport, III./Aquin
1	Adam Wilk	6-5/275	Jr.	1L	Lake Zurich, III./Lake Zurich
6	Sirod Williams (E)	6-0/270	So.	1L	Garfield Heights, Ohio/Garfield Heights
8	Remond Willis (E)	6-1/240	So.	1L	Lilbourn, III./New Madrid
				INEBACKE	
3	Sam Carson	6-1/245	So.	1L	Woodridge, III./Downers Grove South
7	J Leman	6-2/240	Jr.	2L	Champaign, III./Central
4	Brit Miller	6-1/245	So.	1L	Decatur, III./Eisenhower
5	Rodney Pittman	6-2/235	So.	1L	Fort Washington, Md./Friendly
1	Anthony Thornhill	6-1/220	Jr.	2L	Detroit/Detroit Central
			DEI	ENSIVE B	ACKS
2	Sharriff Abdullah (CB)	5-8/170	Sr.	3L	Detroit/St. Martin DePorres
8	Alan Ball (CB)	6-1/175	Sr.	3L	Detroit/St. Martin DePorres
2	Justin Harrison (FS)	5-11/220	Jr.	2L	Bloomington, III./Bloomington
3	Will Judson (CB)	5-8/155	So.	TR	Riverdale, Ga./Florida A&M
3	Drew McMahon	5-10/175	Jr.	1L	Champaign, III./Central
2	Kevin Mitchell (SS)	6-0/200	Jr.	2L	Ft. Wayne, Ind./Homestead
6	Tyler Rouse (FS)	5-10/195	Jr.	2L	Champaign, III./Centennial
				SPECIALIS	
6	Tyler Keely (LS)	6-1/185	Jr.	50	Oswego, III./Oswego
9	Kyle Knezetic (LS)	6-0/195	Jr.	2L	Channahon, III./Minooka
3	Jason Reda (K)	6-1/200	Jr.	2L	Rock Island, III./Rock Island
		code	TO 4	201	M require listed on page 104

Key: L-letters won; RS-redshirt; SO-squad; TR-transfer. 2006 recruits listed on page 106.



INDIANA

abject failure. True, Indiana ended the season with six consecutive Big Ten losses and gave up an average of 41.5 points in those games. And the Hoosiers struggled all season with a new philosophy and missed assignments.

But IU did make strides on offense, even if the statistics argue to the contrary. The program also improved its status within the community, generating more attention and enthusiasm.

Says Hoeppner: "I think we made our biggest impact off the field, in terms of season ticket sales and the level of interest and excitement around the state."

Now progress must come on the field. The offense will be better because of the continued maturation of quarterback Blake Powers and wideout James Hardy. The defense has talent but lacks experience.

The schedule includes seven home games and four manageable nonconference matchups. To keep fans interested, the Hoosiers must make strides toward respectability. Winning a couple of Big Ten games would be a start.

Story: Michael Bradley Photo: CB Tracy Porter



Date	Opponent	What it means	TSN pick
Sept. 2	Western Michigan	This is no gimme. Still, Indiana should win on season-opening excitement alone.	W
Sept. 9	at Ball State	Playing a lesser-known, nonleague, in-state team on the road can be deadly. But not in this case.	W
Sept. 16	Southern Illinois	A laugher? Hardly. The Salukis are a formidable I-AA team that could be a buzz-kill to a quick start	. W
Sept. 23	Connecticut	Style points don't matter-just get a win. This might be the last taste of victory until 2007.	W
Sept. 30	Wisconsin	It's all about putting up a good fight, avoiding a blowout and keeping chins up.	L
Oct. 7	at Illinois	This is it: Indiana's lone shot at Big Ten victory—and avoiding the cellar.	L
Oct. 14	lowa	Forget about winning. But the Hoosiers can see what a bona fide Big Ten team plays like.	L
Oct. 21	at Ohio State	If everyone is able to walk to the bus after the game, it's a moral victory. Good luck.	L
Oct. 28	Michigan State	Might be? Could be? Won't be. But it could come down to the fourth quarter-maybe.	L
Nov. 4	at Minnesota	Another game that offers hope. But remember: Minnesota thinks the same thing—and it is better.	L
Nov. 11	Michigan	Men vs. boys. Indiana isn't ready for this. But, it's on the schedule, so it must be played. Ugh.	L
Nov. 18	at Purdue	Win the Old Oaken Bucket, and ugliness from earlier in the season is washed away.	L.

Sept. 30 W
Oct. 7 at
Oct. 14 lo
Oct. 21 at
Oct. 28 M
Nov. 4 at
Nov. 11 M
Nov. 18 at

Anything less than a 3-1 start will incite the same old refrain: "Here we go again." Even if a 4-0 start is forged—and it's possible—don't go dreaming about bowls. Iowa and Ohio State will deal a double dose of Big Ten reality in mid-October. It's better to measure the Hoosiers in games vs. Illinois, Michigan State and Minnesota. Beating Purdue would be the best tonic.

-Comments and predictions by Sporting News

BLOG ALERT

'Terry Hoeppner believes he

can win. He really does.

Bless his soul. But let's be honest: This is a MAC team—and an average one at that. Still, hope floats.

But how long before the losses and empty seats sink it? I'm guessing

not long.'

For more of Tom Dienhart's take on Indiana, go to www.sportingnews.com

Aside from Illinois, this was the sorriest team we played last year. This is the worst job in the Big Ten. ... Terry Hoeppner is a personable guy. But I think he's a spin doctor. He's trying to sell tickets and is out there glad-handing. He's kind of a plastic guy in that sense. But away from all that, I think he's a good ol' boy. I think he plays the game as well as anybody in terms of understanding his role to sell tickets. ... Hoeppner is trying to get a Miami (Ohio) look to the team. But he could go the rest of his career and never have another Ben Roethlisberger. He has continued to try to recruit off Roethlisberger. ... Their running backs really fell off from a year ago. I thought (Gerry) DiNardo had a couple good running backs in

SCOUTING THE HOOSIERS

Views from a pro scout or an opposing coach

there, and for whatever reason, they didn't get along with these new guys and left. ... When we played them, I don't remember much about them in terms of "Oh, look at that talent." Even the big receiver, James Hardy. He looked good lining up; I don't know how tough he is. He's a

basketball guy. I've heard that about him, and it's probably true. In our game against them, he caught a couple balls but didn't impress me. ...

Blake Powers, their quarterback, and the backup, Graeme McFarland, both had horrible days against us. ... Hoeppner is doing the same thing he did at Miami on the offensive line. He's gone out and gotten size. He has big, big guys, but they are slow. If our best end could have played against them every week, he would have been the all-time sack leader in NCAA football. ... We had a big mental edge against IU in terms of having a winning attitude. Things went bad for them early, they had a couple bad mistakes and, shoot, the game was over. They find a way to disappear on you. ... They try to do some things on defense, but they aren't athletic enough. They remind me of Minnesota and Northwestern.



INSIDE THE

Backfield Blake
Powers set a school
record with 22 touchdown passes last year.
But take a closer look.
Eighteen of those
came in the first five
games (Central
Michigan, Nicholls
State, Kentucky,
Wisconsin and
Illinois). Powers also

threw 16 interceptions and completed a so-so 56.4 percent of his attempts. In sum, he's far from great. But Powers has size and a strong arm. He will throw to a promising group of receivers and should be more comfortable in Year 2 of Terry Hoeppner's offense.

Graeme McFarland is the No. 2 man, but he's a pocket passer like Powers. For a change of pace, the staff could play Kellen Lewis, an intriguing dual-threat weapon.

The running backs inspired little confidence in the spring, meaning last year's anemic running game might not improve. The best of the bunch looks like shifty redshirt freshman Demetrius McCray, who was so impressive on the scout team last year that he became a verb. "Defensive players would get 'McCrayed' trying to stop him," Hoeppner says. Fellow redshirt freshmen Bryan Payton and Justin Carrington are other options, but both are more slashers than sluggers. But speedy converted receiver Marcus Thigpen might end up being the best option for a group that figures to catch a lot of passes.

Receivers The staff believes it's loaded here with as many as eight legit receivers. That's why the tight ends might not figure prominently into the passing game.

James Hardy made a big impact as a redshirt freshman. Now that Hardy has given up basketball, he might be on the cusp of stardom. He has tremendous leaping ability, a 6-7 frame that allows him to work the middle and speed to get deep. If he can stay healthy, he'll catch 80 passes or more.

Jahkeen Gilmore, James Bailey and Brandon Walker-Roby also return. Gilmore has



A.J. MAST FOR TSN

the unit's best hands, and Bailey was a spring star. Keep an eye on a pair of redshirt freshmen: Nick Polk and Andrew Means. Polk is a big target who can catch. He's the fastest receiver. The physical Means reminds some of former Indiana great Ernie Jones.

Think of the tight ends as moving fullbacks. But they also will be asked

to fill a traditional role based on

PHILOSOPHY

Terry Hoeppner likes to spread defenses with multi-receiver sets. He'll give quarterback Blake Powers more freedom at the line to change plays. That should help. And look for the running backs to be more involved in the passing game. But a running game must be established to make the passing attack work if Hoeppner's vision of creating a football version of the "Hurryin' Hoosiers" is to be fulfilled.

RREAKO U PLAYER

It couldn't have been much fun to have been a member of the Hoosiers' front seven when **Demetrius McCray** was imitating enemy backs as a scout team member. He made a lot of people look bad with his elusiveness and breakaway speed. McCray gained 1,642 yards as a high school senior and scored 29 times. He'll get plenty of chances to show his skills this year—the Hoosiers desperately need a big-time back.

the situation. Matt O'Neal is the best option.

Line This work-in-progress could be trouble. That's why the line was an emphasis on signing day, when Hoeppner signed what he called his "seven blocks of limestone." While the newbies—headed by Cody Faulkner—develop into granite, Indiana will turn to a strong pair of tackles to lead the way.

The best is Chauncey Incarnato, a Notre Dame transfer who looks and walks like a stud. No Hoosiers lineman can match his tools. But until Incarnato figures out things, burly Scott Anderson will man right tackle. He's a hulking veteran who lacks athletic ability. Justin Frye, the line's best pass blocker, is the left tackle. He's versatile enough to play most any spot. His experience will make him a leader of a unit that must provide a push in the running game and protect the statuesque Powers.

The interior must develop. Chris Mangiero is a sturdy center and the most rugged run blocker. However, his pass blocking is spotty. The staff is pumped up about left guard Kyle Thomas, a former defensive end who needs to play with more fire. Right guard Jonathan Sandberg is a journeyman.

CAN.	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	WR	1	Jahkeen Gilmore 🛦	6-0	211	Sr.
		80	Chris Banks	6-2	174	Fr.
	LT	60	Justin Frye	6-5	296	Sr.
		58	Matt Moses	6-3	290	So.
	LG	67	Kyle Thomas	6-4	290	So.
		70	Paul Hearn	6-4	308	Jr.
سا	C.	74	Chris Mangiero	6-1	305	Sr.
		61	Ben Wyss	6-1	280	Jr.
	RG	50	Jonathan Sandberg	6-2	290	Jr.
		77	Kenny Love	6-2	290	So.
	RT	79	Scott Anderson	6-6	308	Sr.
		75	Chauncey Incarnato	6-5	283	So.
	WR	6	James Bailey	6-2	199	So.
		19	Brandon Walker-Roby	5-11	177	So.
	QB	14	Blake Powers	6-4	228	Jr.
		12	Graeme McFarland	6-1	215	Jr.
	RB	2	Marcus Thigpen	5-9	182	So.
		22	Demetrius McCray	5-11	189	Fr.
	WR	8	Nick Polk	6-0	191	Fr.
		13	Andrew Means	6-0	209	Fr.
	WR	82	James Hardy A	6-7	216	So.
		29	Ryan Skelton	6-2	205	Sr.
	K	1	Kevin Trulock	6-0	180	So.
	KR	3	Lance Bennett	5-6	162	Sr.
	Retu	rning	starters in bold *True fre	shman		
	A N	FL pro	ospect			



Line In the quest to find the four best players, the staff continues to mix and match. It could take time for a unit that lacks depth, but this group has the potential to be better than the 2005 edition.

The ends are average—at best. Kenny Kendal is a workmanlike player and decent pass rusher. Charles Emerson is penciled in opposite Kendal. Emerson is a big body and a solid anchor against the run, but he lacks quickness and explosion. Keep an eye on redshirt freshmen Jammie Kirlew and Neal Jones. The staff hopes the "tweeners" develop into up-the-field ends who can pressure quarterbacks and disrupt running plays to the outside. Someone must do it now that star end Victor Adeyanju is gone.

Nose tackle Joe Kremer must avoid getting manhandled and occupy blocks. He compensates for a lack of size with strength. Redshirt freshman Todd Newman has the staff excited with his quick first step, but he's still adjusting after playing tight end in high school.

Expect Greg Brown and redshirt freshman Emile Bass to hold the other tackle spot. Both can get into the backfield, although Brown is better suited to clogging the middle. He's a 300pounder who can be difficult to budge. Bass is quicker than he looks.

Linebackers John

Pannozzo and Kyle Killion are gone, but neither was a difference-maker. In fact, that's the problem. The Hoosiers' fast guys are too small, and their big guys are too slow.

Vernon Smith could change that. He's big and fast, and he played in a similar system in junior college. Look for him to start sooner

rather than later when he arrives in the fall. "I told him, 'I'm not expecting you to run down on kick-offs,' "Hoeppner says. "I said, 'You need to come in ready to play.' "Adam McClurg won't hand over the job. But he's little more than a hard-nosed, lunchpail guy with limited potential. Ditto for Jake Powers, who is coming off a solid spring.

The flanks are manned by undersized athletes. Geno Johnson will get first crack on the weak side, and Aaron Mitchell is set to start on the strong side. Johnson has showed instincts working in space. Mitchell is an intense player who loves to hit. And keep an eye on promising Dan Kinsey. The staff thinks there's enough talent to play four linebackers at a time in hopes of improving the run defense and getting the 11 best players on the field.

Secondary This was an area of concern last season for a defense

that generated just seven interceptions and surrendered numerous big plays. But the unit has talent and potential, and it might benefit from adjustments in

scheme that make things easier to digest.

Hoeppner says cornerback Tracy Porter ran a 4.33 40 in the offseason. "He can be a big-time player," Hoeppner says. "But he doesn't play consistently well." Porter led the team with

three interceptions and six pass breakups last season. The other starting corner, Leslie Majors, has legit speed but remains raw. Chris Phillips is the main candidate to be the No. 3 corner.

The safeties look solid.
Free safety Will Meyers is a solid tackler who's smart and rarely out of position. He also helps keep order in the secondary. But Indiana could upgrade at the spot by start-

ing Austin Thomas, who has showed potential. He's a solid athlete who might be hard to keep off the field.

Strong safety Troy Grosfield missed the spring with a knee injury, but the staff knows what he'll provide: sure tackling and solid technique.

PHILOSOPHY

The Hoosiers want to attack from a 4-3 scheme, but their personnel will dictate at what level they can do that. Last year, inexperience in the secondary left Indiana open to big plays, and a thin front seven was gashed for big numbers on the ground. Terry Hoeppner says Indiana is "more athletic at almost every position"—good news for a defense that needs to improve.

RREA OUTPLAYER

The Hoosiers need a middle linebacker, and **Vernon Smith** is perfect for the job. He made 87 tackles last year at Butler County (Kan.) Community College., 9½ for loss. Though a little short for the position, Smith compensates with speed (4.5 40-yard dash) and a solid work ethic. He was ranked as the nation's 11th-best inside linebacker while at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale and the 19th-best junior college prospect last season at Butler.



JAY DROWNS / TSN

1						
	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	LE	93	Charles Emerson	6-5	266	Jr.
		99	Neal Jones	6-4	253	Fr.
	NT	95	Joe Kremer	6-2	295	Jr.
		90	Todd Newman	6-4	274	Fr.
	T	62	Greg Brown 🛦	6-2	303	So.
		53	Emile Bass	6-3	288	Fr.
100	RE	92	Kenny Kendal	6-3	255	Jr.
	1.75	53	Jammie Kirlew	6-4	238	Fr.
V.	SLB	24	Aaron Mitchell	5-11	190	Jr.
		36	Dan Kinsey	6-3	198	Fr.
	MLB	51	Adam McClurg	6-0	230	Jr.
B	(1984)	46	Jake Powers	6-1	230	Sr.
	WLB	56	Geno Johnson	6-2	204	So.
K		40	Josh Bailey	6-1	208	Fr.
	CB	28	Leslie Majors	5-9	159	Jr.
		16	Chris Phillips	5-11	176	So.
	SS	5	Troy Grosfield	6-0	195	Sr.
		25	Eric McClurg	5-11	210	Sr.
	FS	39	Will Meyers	5-11	201	Sr.
		20	Austin Thomas	6-2	192	Fr.
	CB	9	Tracy Porter A	5-10	185	Jr.
		33	Joe Kleinsmith	5-11	186	So.
	P	44	Tyson Beattie	6-1	200	Sr.
	PR	3	Lance Bennett	5-6	162	Sr.
	0000000		starters in bold *True	freshman		
	A N	FL pro	ospect			
-6	100					

2-MINUTE DRILL WITH KR LANCE BENNETT

The funniest nickname I've had: "Midge," short for midget. When I was younger, I was just shorter than everybody. I think my mother was the first person to call me that, They call me "Flow" now. That comes from me being spontaneous and not really locked into anything, just going with the flow of life.

The Hoosiers' most unique locker: Trent Green has his own locker in our locker room with his NFL uniform.

The most challenging thing about being a student-athlete: Getting busy work from your professors that teaches you nothing, yet you still have to take time to do it.

My opponents would say the best thing I do is: Cut and make people miss.

The best prank I have seen: (Former Indiana)

running back Chris Taylor putting lotion in people's cleats.

Bet you don't know this about coach Terry Hoeppner: He is very skilled on the speed bag. We have one in the weight room now, and he demonstrated to the whole team how to use it.

QUICK HITS

Where they play

Stadium: Memorial (artificial, 52,354) Site: Bloomington, Ind. Tickets: 866-487-7678

What they run

Offensive scheme: Spread Defensive scheme: 4-3

The last time

They won a league title: 1967 (tie) They played in a bowl: 1993

Coaching staff

Head coach: Terry Hoeppner (4-7, 1 year; 52-32 overall, 7 years) Assistant head coach/offensive coordinator/tight ends: Bill Lynch (2nd year, 4th at school)

Co-defensive coordinator/defensive line: Brian George (2nd year)

Co-defensive coordinator/cornerbacks: Joe Palcic (2nd year)

Running backs/special teams assistant: Gerald Brown (5th year)

Gerald Brown (5th year)

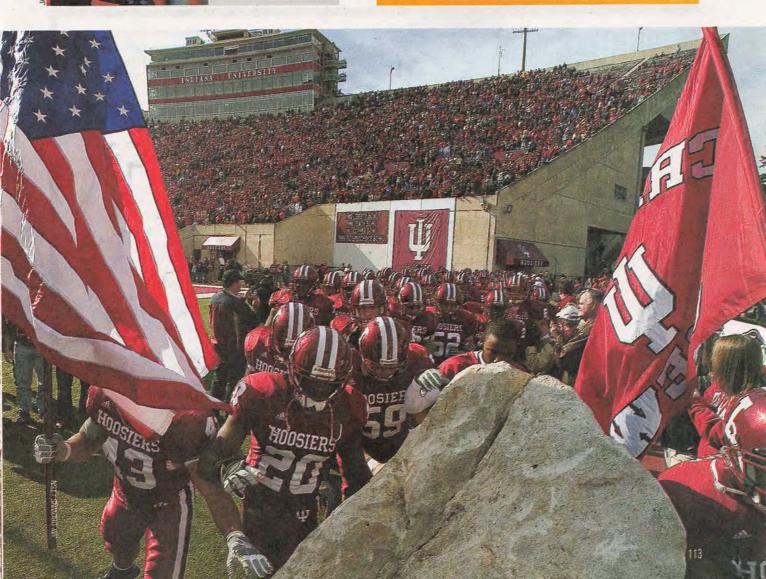
Quarterbacks/passing game

coordinator: Matt Canada (3rd year)

Offensive line/running game coordinator: Bobby Johnson (2nd year)

Linebackers/special teams coordinator: George Ricumstrict (2nd year)

Safeties: Mike Yeager (1st year, 2nd at school)



COACHING

Terry Hoeppner is perhaps more of a key figure than other head coaches. He's a charismatic sort whose vision and desire to be in Bloomington set the tone. That will continue, even if the Hoosiers' problems persist. His offensive plan is designed to produce yards and

points with minimal risk, something that was evident when Ben

Roethlisberger was Hoeppner's quarterback at Miami (Ohio). However, Hoeppner had a

However, Hoeppner had a health scare in the offseason and had to have a tumor removed from his head. The prognosis is good as he tries to end Indiana's 12-year bowl drought.

To that end, he shook up his

staff slightly during the offseason. Offensive coordinator Bill Lynch is a former collegiate quarterback who built solid attacks as head coach at Ball State.

Co-defensive coordinators Brian George and Joe Palcic came with Hoeppner from Miami, where they helped construct one of the Mid-American Conference's top units. George also handles the defensive line, so he has his work cut out for him. Palcic also will work with cornerbacks after Troy Douglas didn't have his contract renewed. Mike Yeager, who played for Hoeppner at Miami, was promoted from graduate assistant to coach safeties.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Let's just say the days of Pete Stoyanovich are long gone. Last year's kicker, Joe Kleinsmith, has moved to cornerback. Kinda strange, but he wanted to do it. In the spring, former walk-on Kevin Trulock grabbed the job. Don't expect him to be asked to nail any bombs. Austin Starr could do that because he has showed a strong leg on kickoffs. But his accuracy is spotty.

Punter Tyson Beattie could be OK, but he lacks consistency. Not good for an offense that often needs to be bailed out.

Mighty mite Lance Bennett juices up the return game. He went the distance on a kickoff return earlier in his career.

A lack of athletic ability always is an issue on coverage teams. Don't expect that to change.



A.J. MAST FOR TSN

Hoeppner

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

KECKUITING CLASS

National rank 84 Conference rank 11

Name Pos. Ht./wt. Hometown/school

**** Among the nation's top 30 prospects

None

*** Among the nation's top 200 prospects

None

** Among	the nation's	top 50	00	prospects
OI.	r ringr	01	000	he we we

Cody Faulkner	OL	6-5/306	Cicero, Ind./Hamilton Heights
Matt Mayberry	LB	6-2/205	Darien, III./Hinsdale South
Alex Perry	- OL	6-7/251	Morris, III./Morris Community
Jeff Sanders	TE	6-4/235	Springfield, III./Sacred Heart-Griffin
Vernon Smith	LB	5-11/230	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./Butler County C.C. (Kan.)
		- H - M	E 4 3 3 3 5 3 3 4 3

** Solid Division I prospects

	** 5	Solid Divisio	on I prospects	
James Brewer	OL	6-8/295	Indianapolis/Arlington	
Aaron Burks	S	5-11/190	Phoenix/Desert Vista	
Adrian Burks	RB/WR	6-0/186	Phoenix/Desert Vista	
Ben Chappell	QB	6-3/215	Bloomington, Ind./South	7
Richard Council	CB	6-1/170	Carrolton, Texas/Newman Smith	
Ray Fisher	WR/DB	5-9/167	Cleveland/Glenville	
Deonte Mack	DT	6-3/275	Elkhart, Ind./Elkhart	
Brad Martin	TE	6-4/230	Marion, Ohio/Marion Pleasant	
Greg Middleton	DE	6-3/260	Indianapolis/Pike	
William Patterson	LB	6-1/210	Indianapolis/Lawrence North	
Mandela Roberts	LB	6-0/220	Lufkin, Texas/Lufkin	
Rodger Saffold	OL	6-5/275	Bedford, Ohio/Bedford	
Pete Saxon	OL	6-6/310	Plain City, Ohio/Jonathan Alder	
Jarrod Smith	OL:	6-4/269	Fairborn, Ohio/Fairborn	
Mike Stark	0L	6-7/285	Platteville, Wis./Platteville	

Biggest get: Two Illinois prospects were at the top of Indiana's class. LB Matt Mayberry and OL Alex Perry were heavily recruited before picking Indiana. Mayberry is known as a head-hunter because of his ability to roam sideline to sideline. Perry's team won the state championship his senior season.

Biggest miss: Indiana continues to miss on many top prospects in-state. The top five players went elsewhere, and only three of the top 10 players signed with the Hoosiers.

Instant impact: OL Cody
Faulkner and Perry could help.
Faulkner, the No. 6 player in
Indiana, was recruited by several
Big Ten programs before he picked
the Hoosiers. LB Vernon Smith
was one of the top junior college
players in the nation. He has been
told he needs to help this fall.

Diamond in the rough: LB Mandela Roberts played for one of the top programs in Texas. His coaches called him the best player on Lufkin's defense the past two seasons. Roberts has a great nose for the ball.

Battleground: Indiana didn't

win enough battles at home but did OK in other parts of the Midwest. Ohio is a state where the Hoosiers have had success, thanks largely to the connection Terry Hoeppner

made while coaching Miami (Ohio).

Fun facts: Smith signed with Pitt out of high school. He was one of the top linebackers in Florida in the class of 2004

before matriculating to a top junior college program. ... Minnesota was set to take twins RB/WR Adrian and S Aaron Burks. But its class filled up and Indiana grabbed them. Both have speed and athletic ability. ... CB Richard Council picked Indiana over offers from Louisiana-Monroe and Sam Houston State. But he got serious looks from other Big Ten programs, including Minnesota and lowa. ... Indiana wanted to beef up its offensive line; it signed what Hoeppner dubbed his "seven blocks of limestone." ... DE Greg Middleton accepted an offer from Purdue, but it was pulled. Indiana swooped in and might have scored a playmaker.

-Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

KEIUKNING	LEAD	FK2				
RUSHING		Att		Yds.	Avg.	TD
Blake Powers		100		121	1.2	4
Josiah Sears		24		103	4.3	0
PASSING	Comp.	Att.	Pcf	. Yds.	. TD	Int
Blake Powers	212	376	56.4	1 2,305	22	16
RECEIVING		Red		Yds.	Avg.	TD
James Hardy		61		893	14.6	10
Marcus Thigpen		32		432	13.5	2
Jahkeen Gilmore		30		383	12.8	3
James Bailey		27		335	12.4	3
KICK/PUNT RET	URNS		No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Lance Bennett			34	610	17.9	0
KICKING		XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Joe Kleinsmith		31	34	3	6	40
TACKLES	Solo	Assis	ts	Total	TFL/	Yds.
Will Meyers	64	20		84	7,	/21
Trou Crosfield	12	15		57	20	12

Sacks: Greg Brown (2) Interceptions: Porter (3)

KEY LOSSES

Leslie Majors

Tracy Porter

Offense G Brandon Hatcher; G Adam Hines; T Isaac Sowells; RB Chris Taylor (team-high 156 att., team-high 740 yards, 4 TDs); RB Yamar Washington (127 att., 443 yards, 1 TD).

3/11 0/0

36

Defense E Victor Adeyanju (47 tackles, team-high 12 tackles for loss, team-high 6.5 sacks); E Ben Ishola (27 tackles, 6.5 tackles for loss); CB Damien Jones (31 tackles); LB Kyle Killion (team-high 91 tackles, 8 tackles for loss); FS Will Lumpkin (31 tackles); LB John Pannozzo (52 tackles, 7.5 tackles for loss, 3 sacks); T Russ Richardson (19 tackles).

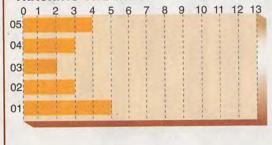
2005 TEAM STATISTICS

	Average	Rank
Rushing offense	131.2	11th Big Ten/78th nation
Rushing defense	215.2	9th/110th
Passing offense	219.6	9th/65th
Passing defense	202.6	1st/35th
Total offense	350.8	11th/75th
Total defense	417.7	8th/93rd
Turnover differential	-8	9th/100th

2005 RESULTS (4-7, 1-7/10th Big Ten)

at Central Michig	an W, 20-13	Ohio State	L, 41-10
Nicholls State	W, 35-31	at Michigan State	L, 46-15
Kentucky	W, 38-14	Minnesota	L, 42-21
at Wisconsin	L, 41-24	at Michigan	L, 41-14
Illinois	W, 36-13	Purdue	L, 41-14
at Iowa	L, 38-21		

TRACKING THE WINS



HOOSIFRS ROSTER

No.	OSIERS ROST	Ht./Wt.	CI.	Exp.	Hometown/previous school
				ARTERBA	
5	Kellen Lewis	6-1/177	Fr.	RS	Jacksonville/Mandarin Mountain Brook, Ala./Mountain Brook
2	Graeme McFarland	6-1/215	Sr. Jr.	SQ 2L	Brandenburg, Ky./Meade County
4	Blake Powers	6-4/224		NNING BA	
3	Kenni Burns	5-11/197	Jr.	1L	Springfield, III./Sacred Heart Griffin
8	Justin Carrington	6-0/204	Fr.	RS	Lessburg, Va,/Liberty
8	Ty Harangody (FB)	6-1/239	Fr.	RS	Schererville, Ind./Andrean
2	Demetrius McCray	5-11/189	Fr.	RS	Brandon, Fla./Armwood
1	Jeremy Miles	5-10/212	Sr.	50	Cordova, Tenn./Cordova
7	Bryan Payton	5-9/208	Fr.	RS	Fort Wayne, Ind./Fork Union Military Academy (Va.
2	Josiah Sears (FB)	6-0/238	Jr.	2L	Greenfield, Ind./Greenfield Central
	Marcus Thigpen	5-9/182	So.	1L	Detroit/Mumford
	Iamae Dailou	6-2/199	So.	ERS/TIGH	Detroit/Denby Technical Prep
0	James Bailey Chris Banks	6-2/174	Fr.	RS	Alliance, Ohio/Alliance
	Lance Bennett	5-6/162	Sr.	3L	Brooklyn, N.Y./Poly Prep Country Day
5	Brian Faires (TE)	6-3/257	Jr.	1L	Indianapolis/Ben Davis
	Jahkeen Gilmore	6-0/211	Sr.	2L	Brooklyn, N.Y./Poly Prep
2	James Hardy	6-7/216	So.	1L	Fort Wayne, Ind./Elmhurst
4	Jake Kocal	5-10/182	Fr.	RS	Valparaiso, Ind./Andrean
3	Andrew Means	6-0/209	Fr.	RS	Avon Lake, Ohio/Avon Lake
3	Matt O'Neal (TE)	6-1/229	Sr.	3L	Terre Haute, Ind./South Vigo
	Nick Polk	6-0/191	Fr.	RS	Milwaukee/Vincent
9	Chris Rudanovic (TE)	6-4/262	Sr.	3L	Sussex, N.J./High Point
8	Nick Sexton (TE) Ryan Skelton	6-5/250 6-2/205	Jr. Sr.	2L 3L	Bloomington, Ind./Bloomington North Greenwood, Ind./Center Grove
9	Brandon Walker-Roby	5-11/177	So.	1L	Indianapolis/North Central
7	Didiluon walker hoby	3 11/111		NSIVE LIN	
9	Scott Anderson (T)	6-6/308	Sr.	3L	Lafayette, Ind./McCutcheon
9	Sean Edmundson	6-4/287	So.	SQ	Greenwood, Ind./Center Grove
0	Justin Frye (T)	6-5/296	Sr.	3L	Elwood, Ind./Elwood
5	Chauncey Incarnato (T)	6-5/283	So.	TR	Dover, Ohio/University of Notre Dame
8	Brandon Joyce	6-4/300	Jr.	SO	St. Charles, Mo./Duchesne
0	Paul Hearn (G)	6-4/308	Jr.	SO	Calgary, Alberta/Champlain Regional
7	Kenny Love (G)	6-2/290	So.	20	Willingboro, N.J./The Pennington School
4	Chris Mangiero (C)	6-1/305	Sr.	3L	Brooklyn, N.Y./Poly Prep Country Day
8	Matt Moses (T)	6-3/290	So.	50	Columbus, Ind./Columbus North
50	Johnathan Sandberg (G)	6-2/290	Jr.	1L	Monon, Ind./North White
57	Kyle Thomas (G)	6-4/290	So.	50	Bloomington, Ind./Bloomington North
1	Ben Wyss (C)	6-1/280	Jr.	1L	Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers
2	Tulor Altman (E)	6-0/255	Jr.	NSIVE LII	Latrobe, Pa./Greater Latrobe
52	Tyler Altman (E) Emile Bass (T)	6-3/288	Fr.	RS	Detroit/Sterling Heights
53	Fabiene Boone (E)	6-4/240	Fr.	RS	Evansville, Ind./Bosse
52	Greg Brown (T)	6-2/303	So.	1L	Centerville, Ohio/Centerville
93	Charlie Emerson (E)	6-5/266	Jr.	1L	Weston, Conn./Staples
99	Neal Jones (E)	6-4/253	Fr.	RS	Orlando/Dr. Phillips
92	Kenny Kendal (E)	6-3/248	Sr.	3L	Chicago/Gordon Tech
57	Jammie Kirlew (E)	6-4/238	Fr.	RS	Orlando/Cypress Creek
95	Joe Kremer (NT)	6-2/295	Jr.	2L	Urbana, Ohio/Urbana
90	Todd Newman (NT)	6-4/274	Fr.	RS	Bartlett, III./Bartlett
		4.4/000		INEBACKE	
10	Josh Bailey	6-1/208	Fr.	RS	Indianapolis/Warren Central
66	Geno Johnson	6-2/204	50.	1L DC	Walleville Ohio/Reaver Local
36	Dan Kinsey	6-3/198	Fr. So.	RS 1L	Wellsville, Ohio/Beaver Local Lakewood, Ohio/St. Edward
35 51	Ryan Marando Adam McClurg	6-2/240 6-0/230	Jr.	2L	Greenwood, Ind./Center Grove
24	Aaron Mitchell	5-11/190	Jr.	2L	South Holland, III./Thornwood
30	Casey Nowinski	6-1/224	Sr.	2L	Merrillville, Ind./Andrean
46	Jake Powers	6-1/230	Sr.	3L	Danville, Ind./Danville
49	Isaac Price	6-1/235	So.	SO	Southfield, Mich./Southfield
37	Greg Weeks	5-11/222	So.	50	Sarasota, Fla./Booker
			DE	FENSIVE E	BACKS
21	Rayshun Calhoun (CB)	5-10/197	So.	SO	Atlanta/Douglass
5	Troy Grosfield (SS)	6-0/182	Sr.	3L	Littleton, Colo./Chatfield
31	Bruce Hampton (CB)	5-10/184	Fr.	RS	University Heights, Ohio/Cleveland Heights
33	Joe Kleinsmith (CB/K)	5-11/188	So.	1L	Cleveland/St. Ignatius
28	Leslie Majors (CB)	5-9/159	Jr.	2L 2L	South Holland, III./Thornwood Greenwood, Ind./Center Grove
25	Eric McClurg (SS) Will Meyers (FS)	5-11/213 5-11/201	Sr. Sr.	3L	Ballwin, Mo./Parkway West
39 26	Brandon Mosley (S)	5-8/194	So.	11	Merrillville, Ind./Merrillville
16	Chris Phillips (CB)	5-11/176	So.	1L	Atlanta/Booker T. Washington
9	Tracy Porter (CB)	5-10/181	Jr.	2L	Port Allen, La./Port Allen
45	Tim Reid	6-0/218	Fr.	RS	Fort Wayne, Ind./Homestead
20	Austin Thomas (FS)	6-2/192	Fr.	RS	Woodstock, Ga./Sequoyah
				SPECIALIS	
44	Tyson Beattie (P)	6-1/204	Sr.	3L	Attadale, Australia/Christian Brothers
54	Tim Bugg (LS)	6-0/249	Jr.	1L	Mishawaka, Ind./Mishawaka Penn
93	Michael Hines (P/K)	5-11/199	Jr.	SO	Fort Wayne, Ind./Homestead
	Austin Starr (K)	6-2/199	So.	1L	Logansport, Ind./Logansport
18	Kevin Trulock (K)	6-0/180	So.	SO	Indianapolis/Roncalli

JECTED FINISH Overall: 12-0

NOTRE DAME

on't tell us it can't happen. Jim Tressel won a national championship in two years. So did Bob Stoops. So why in the world can't Charlie Weis, in his second year at Notre Dame, bring a storied program back to the top of college football?

From their point-a-minute offense to a favorable schedule to one of the top X's-and-0's coaches in the game, there's little not to like about the 2006 Irish.

Forget about the secondary that can't cover anyone (it'll be upgraded) or the defense that had problems in big games (another year in the system and an influx of speed will help); this

team will ride the nation's best offense through the most wide-open championship race in two decades.

Notre Dame won't need a top-ranked defense to win its first national title since 1988.

Southern California was No. 48 among Division I-A schools in total defense last year, and the Trojans would have been national champions had they converted a fourth-and-2 in the final minutes of the Rose Bowl.

So don't tell us it can't happen with the Irish.

Story: Matt Hayes, Sporting News Photo: QB Brady Quinn

at Georgia Tech Penn State	A hurdle right out of the gate. Let's see if the secondary can cover Calvin Johnson.	W
	Can you think of a bother way to appropriate Nation Day to the total of the both time to 1000	
	Can you think of a better way to punctuate Notre Dame's return to glory than by beating JoePa?	W
Michigan	Talk about offensive firepower. Time to see if that defense indeed has improved.	W
at Michigan State	Who's your daddy, Irish? It's Sparty. Expect the Irish to be motivated to beat down this nemesis.	W
Purdue	Spoilermakers? Not likely. This is another chance to put Purdue in its place.	W
Stanford	This will be closer than you think. Why? Because Walt Harris is a damn good coach.	W
UCLA	A young, talented team with nothing to lose. Hmmm. Still, Charlie Weis will have two weeks to prep.	W
at Navy*	The cruel and unusual punishment continues in the nation's most worthless annual series.	W
North Carolina		W
at Air Force		W
Army		W
at USC		W
F	Purdue Stanford JCLA at Navy* North Carolina at Air Force Army	Purdue Spoilermakers? Not likely. This is another chance to put Purdue in its place. Stanford This will be closer than you think. Why? Because Walt Harris is a damn good coach. JCLA A young, talented team with nothing to lose. Hmmm. Still, Charlie Weis will have two weeks to prep. at Navy* The cruel and unusual punishment continues in the nation's most worthless annual series. North Carolina A win is a win, but what's the point? This is yet another game that will impress no one. At Air Force A thankless game against an overmatched foe. But never underestimate the power of the option. Will the Irish be looking ahead to the Trojans? Maybe, but it won't matter. Time to clear the bench.

There's little to fear, which is one of the reasons this team is ranked No. 1. The key: surviving September. A run of four consecutive games against Big Ten teams will test the mettle of a defense that has questions. After that, Notre Dame goes into cruise control, but beware the visit from UCLA. Still, in the end, everything will boil down to the game at USC.

-Comments and predictions by Sporting News

Charlie Weis is arrogant as hell. I couldn't even talk to him before the game last year. I tried to. It was a one-sided conversation. After asking him about six different questions and getting little to no answer, I went to the other end of the field. ... They don't have a great team. They have a great quarterback. A really, really good quarterback. They'll be good again, but I'll be interested to see how Weis functions

when he doesn't have Brady Quinn. I think if he had turned pro, he would have been the first quarterback picked. ... I think if Tyrone Willingham was their coach last year, they would have won eight games. They won nine games. But the nine games

Views from a pro scout or an opposing coach

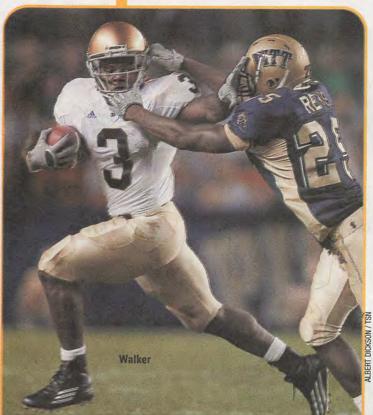
they won, only three of the schools they beat (Michigan, BYU and Navy) finished with winning records. So, how good of a team was it? But it's Notre Dame, and everyone loves the new

kid on the block. And everyone is in love with Weis. ... I think they'll be a little better on defense, and I think they'll be lights out on offense, again, although they have lost some guys on the line. ... They'll miss WR Maurice Stovall. He was a big, physical kid. ... RB Darius Walker is a solid guy, but he's not the back that the Michigan kid (Mike Hart) is. ... I don't see much changing on defense. They'll be a year older and a year better. They return most of those kids, so the experience will help them a lot. ... Losing LB Corey Mays will hurt them. I think their linebackers, you have to watch what's going on there. Maybe they have some good guys on campus. ... I can't verify whether Weis put in new wrinkles each week, like the NFL. He had an experienced quarterback. Who's to say if Weis had a different quarterback if he could have added anything new each week?

BLOG ALERI

is the best quarterback in the nation. The schedule is friendly. Charlie Weis is Einstein with a headset. I'm on board. Here's another Golden Dome-sized scoop of hype for your tailgate: ND will win the national title.' For more of Tom Dienhart's take on Notre Dame, go to www.sportingnews.com

'Brady Quinn



Coach Charlie Weis wants to force defenses to adjust to his tempo and his play-calling. The prevailing theme is to attack the defense at its weak point by running or passing—this is where Weis' meticulous game-planning comes into

play-and to force adjustments that

primarily in pro sets.

eventually will lead to other weaknesses.

The Irish are multiple in scheme and based

INSIDE THE

Backfield This begins and ends with Brady Quinn—the most recognizable player in the game and a leading Heisman Trophy candidate. In one season under Charlie Weis, Quinn went from a big, strong, talented player with zero confidence to one of the college game's most efficient quarterbacks. Weis' offense has allowed Quinn to better develop what he does best: throw intermediate and deep balls. There isn't much experience behind Quinn (David Wolke and Evan Sharpley have a combined total of three pass attempts in their ND careers), which means one of two true freshmen (Zach Frazer and Demetrius Jones) could land the top backup job.

Tailback Darius Walker is a gutsy runner overshadowed in Weis' pass-happy offense. But the Irish are most dangerous when there is balance and when Walker's slashing style keeps defenses guessing. The problem: Walker isn't a grinder; he can't consistently get the tough yards on third- and fourth-and-short. Fullback Asaph Schwapp is a solid lead

blocker but not much of a short-yardage back. So the short running game likely will lean on freshman James Aldridge, a big back with speed who enrolled early and participated in spring practice.

Receivers There are two blatant examples of players misused under the previous staff: Quinn and Jeff Samardzija, who went from zero touch-

downs in 2003 and '04 to finishing second in the nation in touchdown catches (15) in '05. He's not the fastest guy, but he explodes out of cuts, creates separation and uses his big frame to shield his body and the ball.

The return of Rhema McKnight, who missed the final 10 games of the season with a knee injury, gives the Irish deep speed. So does freshman George West, another who enrolled early. He is a speedy athlete who also could play cornerback.

There is little pass-catching experience at

tight end, where John Carlson and Marcus
Freeman are primarily blockers. But some feel
Carlson could turn into a key player. Two more
players from ND's heralded recruiting class—
Konrad Reuland and Will Yeatman—could be
a factor. Both are physically ready to play, but
the issue is whether they can learn Weis'
complex offense in time to keep the
position a threat in the passing
game.

RREAKO TPLAYER

RB James Aldridge was one of the nation's top recruits last season and one of the first of the 2006 class to commit to Charlie Weis before last season. Aldridge is a big, bruising runner who can handle 20-25 carries per game. Carrying the ball won't be a problem for Aldridge; understanding protection schemes will. Weis puts a premium on protecting his quarterback, and Aldridge's playing time will increase once he understands the protections.

Line This is the lone question on an otherwise loaded offense. It's not like the Irish are full of inexperience; four of the five projected

Harris

starters played significant roles over the past two years. And therein lies the problem. Although the Irish gave up only 21 sacks last season, Quinn was hurried and pressured—and absorbed a majority of that pressure—in big games.

The middle three of center John Sullivan and guards Bob Morton and Dan Santucci are solid but not spectacular. The group had problems getting a push in the running game

against elite opponents, but there is hope that another season under respected line coach John Latina will help.

Left tackle Ryan Harris has developed into one of the best pass blockers in the nation, but the Irish could start a freshman at the other tackle spot. Sophomore Paul Duncan or career reserve Brian Mattes likely will hold the job until one of a group of talented freshmen—most likely Sam Young—wins it. The problem is, you can't hide inexperience—no matter how talented the player—at tackle in a passing offense.

A SE	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	WR	83	Jeff Samardzija 🛦	6-5	216	Sr.
		7	Darrin Bragg	6-1	192	So.
	LT	68	Ryan Harris 🛦	6-5	288	Sr.
	Take I	77	Michael Turkovich	6-6	290	So.
	LG	50	Dan Santucci 🛦	6-4	290	Sr.
		79	Brian Mattes	6-6	285	Sr.
للا	C	78	John Sullivan 🛦	6-4	298	Jr.
100		76	Bob Morton	6-4	292	Sr.
	RG	76	Bob Morton 🛦	6-4	292	Sr.
		59	Chris Stewart*	6-5	340	Fr.
	RT	72	Paul Duncan	6-7	292	So.
		79	Brian Mattes	6-6	285	Sr.
Sec. 18	TE	89	John Carlson A	6-6	254	Jr.
1		87	Marcus Freeman 🛦	6-3	245	Sr.
Barrier Barrier	WR	5	Rhema McKnight 🛦	6-2	207	Sr.
	THE PARTY	11	David Grimes	6-0	170	So.
	QB	10	Brady Quinn 🛦	6-4	231	Sr.
		13	Evan Sharpley	6-2	207	Fr.
	RB	3	Darius Walker 🛦	5-10	208	Jr.
100		26	Travis Thomas 🛦	6-0	215	Jr.
The same	FB	44	Asaph Schwapp	6-0	250	So.
		35	Ashley McConnell	6-0	247	Jr.
	K		Ryan Burkhart*	5-11	185	Fr.
19,248	KR	11	David Grimes	6-0	170	So.
THE STATE OF	Retu	rning	starters in bold *True fr	eshman		
1	AN	FL pr	ospect			



PHILOSOPHY

Coordinator Rick Minter always has used various combinations of zone and pressure to keep offenses guessing. Which is what made last year so frustrating. Because the Irish had problems in coverage and struggled to find a consistent pass rush, Minter was forced to use more zone principles than he wanted to.

Line It's the key to the defense. If significant change occurs here (read: a strong pass rush), there's no stopping the train. The Irish stressed speed during winter conditioning



because they need to find ways to gain an edge in the front four. The entire line returns, and the group plays hard, but it must play with more consistency to make the defense work. If the pass rush improves, so will the play in the secondary.

Tackles Derek Landri and Trevor Laws are solid run stuffers, and the goal this offseason was geared toward improving pass-rush ability. The key to the pass rush, though, is enigmatic senior end Victor Abiamiri. The one-time megarecruit has showed potential and played well in spots, but he gets lost in games, and the entire unit feels it when he does. He must play a more disruptive role; his rush end spot is the key to coordinator Rick Minter's defense.

Ends Ronald Talley and Justin Brown played well in spots last season but must be more consistent in technique and understand that one power move doesn't work all the time. The Irish need two more ends to become factors in the rotation. Chris Frome was beginning to play well in Minter's scheme before a knee injury against Southern California ended his season. He didn't participate in spring practice and dropped on the depth chart. Incoming freshmen John Ryan and Kallen Wade both will get an opportunity, but neither really has the needed bulk.

Linebackers Here, more issues on defense begin to surface. Maurice Crum is solid and showed flashes of star potential last season, but he was limited in spring practice while recovering from a back injury. The staff wanted to try Crum at all three positions in the spring to find a way to get the best three linebackers on the field together—at least for the time being.

This position, more than any other, is where freshmen likely will make a significant impact. Career reserves Joe Brockington and Mitchell Thomas and Anthony Vernaglia will compete for starting spots, but freshmen Morrice Richardson and Toryan Smith both could be starting by the end of fall camp. Crum started on the strong side last year but is expected to start in the middle because of his experience and because the coaches trust him to run the defense. Crum could

move back to the strong side if one of the freshmen is advanced enough to play the middle.

Secondary OK, good news, bad news: The entire secondary returns. These guys were torched much of

the season (see: USC fourth-and-forever; any Ohio State receiver in the Fiesta Bowl), and here again, there could be a push from incoming freshmen Darrin Walls and Raeshon McNeil. But there is hope that an improved pass rush will allow the secondary to take more chances in man coverage. Cornerbacks Mike Richardson and Ambrose Wooden are good athletes, and their physical style is more suited to man coverage. But the lack of a consistent pass rush leaves them alone in coverage too long.

Safeties Tom Zbikowski and Chinedum Ndukwe are strong in run support and rarely out of position in coverage. Minter wants to play his safeties closer to line of scrimmage for run support and various blitz schemes, but the pass rush must improve for that to happen.

Terrail Lambert emerged in the spring as a legitimate nickel back and third corner, and young safeties David Bruton and Ray Herring will give the Irish flexibility in substitutions. Part of the problem last season was the lack of depth and talent, which forced the starters to play most or all of the snaps in key games.

BREAMOUTPLAYER

CB Ambrose Wooden was third on the team in tackles last season, so he's not technically a breakout player. But the former wideout still is learning the nuances of the cornerback position and is a terrific athlete. He's active and physical in coverage even though he doesn't have ideal size for his position. If the pass rush improves and the secondary plays more man coverage, Wooden will have an All-American-caliber season.

		-			1	100
	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	CI.
	LE	95	Victor Abiamiri A	6-4	260	Sr.
		57	Dwight Stephenson	6-2	252	Jr.
	LT	98	Trevor Laws A	6-1	293	Jr.
		92	Derrell Hand	6-3	301	Fr.
	RT	66	Derek Landri 🛦	6-3	263	Sr.
		96	Pat Kuntz	6-2	267	So.
1	RE	99	Ronald Talley A	6-4	261	So.
		94	Justin Brown	6-3	247	So.
111	WLB	48	Steve Quinn	6-2	215	So.
		47	Mitchell Thomas	6-3	240	Jr.
	MLB	40	Maurice Crum 🛦	6-0	220	So.
		41	Scott Smith	6-3	234	So.
	SLB	4	Anthony Vernaglia	6-3	221	So.
		42	Kevin Washington	6-1	231	Fr.
31.5	RCB	22	Ambrose Wooden	5-11	197	Jr.
-		15	Leo Ferrine	6-0	186	So.
THE T	SS	9	Tom Zbikowski 🛦	6-0	208	Jr.
1		6	Ray Herring	6-0	199	So.
	FS	18	Chinedum Ndukwe 🛦	6-2	219	Sr.
		27	David Bruton	6-2	187	So.
	LCB	30	Mike Richardson	5-11	193	Sr.
10.00		20	Terrail Lambert	5-11	188	So.
	P	17	Geoff Price	6-3	186	Jr.
10 10 10	PR	9	Tom Zbikowski	6-0	208	Jr.
-	Retur	rning	starters in bold *True fresh	nman		
	▲ NF	L pro	spect			

2-MINUTE DRILL WITH WR JEFF SAMARDZIJA

The team's best trash talker: It's probably Tom Zbikowski because he can say what he wants, and not too many people are going to say anything back to him because of his background as a boxer. But if he says something to me, I pop him back.

The funniest nickname I've had: The whole "Shark" thing is funny to me because I don't know where it came from; it was kind of random. A teammate on the baseball team, Chris Niesel, called me that one day to make fun of me, kind of out of nowhere, and

it stuck.

My opponents would say the best thing I do is: Create a mismatch with my size. And I think I'm relatively quick for my size.

My favorite way to spend my free time: I'm a big fisherman, so anytime I can get outside and catch some bass, I take it.

My favorite/least favorite thing about

South Bend: The best thing is the tight-knit community that surrounds athletics, especially football. The worst thing is it's a small town in northern Indiana. It's not the most going-on place, but that's kind of a good thing, too. That makes it easier to focus on football.

QUICK HITS

Where they play

Stadium: Notre Dame (grass, 80,795) Site: South Bend, Ind. Tickets: 574-631-7356

What they run

Offensive scheme: Pro set Defensive scheme: 4-3

The last time

They didn't play in a bowl: 2003

Coaching staff

Head coach: Charlie Weis (9-3, 1 year) Assistant head coach/offensive line: John Latina (2nd year) Assistant head coach/defensive backs: Bill Lewis (2nd year) Offensive coordinator/running backs: Michael Haywood (2nd year) Defensive coordinator/linebackers:

Rick Minter (2nd year, 4th at school)
Receivers/recruiting coordinator:

Rob lanello (2nd year)

Defensive line: Jappy Oliver (2nd year) Tight ends/assistant special teams: Bernie Parmalee (2nd year)

Special teams/linebackers assistant: Brian Polian (2nd year)

Quarterbacks: Peter Vaas (2nd year, 4th at school)





COACHING

Let's see, in a little more than one year on the job, Charlie Weis took an underachieving 6-6 team and won nine games, went to a BCS bowl and landed one of the nation's top five recruiting classes in February. Not bad.

Here's a guy who never played the game, yet knows it from a technical/matchup/ breakdown aspect as well as any coach in the nation. He learned valuable motivational skills from Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick (not a bad pair) and has a true passion for his university (he's an alum). He has galvanized subway alums and given the

program hope-and now hype.

Weis still is learning the nuances of the col-

lege game and of being a head coach, so there's plenty of room to grow. Weis isn't technically the offensive coordinator, but he calls the plays, and the offense runs through him.

Don't think defensive coordinator Rick Minter is under any pressure because the Irish finished No. 75 in total defense last season. He was a solid hire—a coordinator with a proven track record who was working with a unit void of speed and elite athletes.

The more success Weis has on the recruiting trail, the more success the defense will have under Minter—one of three former head coaches on staff (secondary coach Bill Lewis and quarterbacks coach Peter Vaas).

SPECIAL TEAMS

With the departure of D.J. Fitzpatrick, the Irish will need to break in a new punter and kicker. Geoff Price has a strong leg and will handle the punting duties, and incoming freshman Ryan Burkhart likely will take over the extra point and field-goal duties.

Tom Zbikowski is fantastic on pont returns and scored two touchdowns on them in 2005, including one against Southern California. He doesn't necessarily have blazing speed, but Zbikowski has a knack for finding seams and breaking big gains.

David Grimes and D.J. Hord are decent on kickoff returns, but look for speedy true freshman George West to become the primary kickoff return man.

DIITING 2006

National rank 8

Weis

Name	Pos.	Ht./wt.	Hometown/school
**	*** Am	ong the nati	on's top 30 prospects
James Aldridge	RB	6-1/215	Crown Point, Ind./Merrillville
Sam Young	0L	6-7/292	Coral Springs, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas
**	** Amor	g the nation	n's top 200 prospects
Matt Carufel	OL-	6-5/288	Forest Lake, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall
Zach Frazier	QB	6-4/215	Mechanicsburg, Pa./Mechanicsburg
Richard Jackson	WR	6-3/200	Clermont, Fla./East Ridge
Demetrius Jones	QB	6-4/202	Chicago/Morgan Park
Raeshon McNeil	DB	6-0/175	Cooleemee, N.C./Davie County
Eric Olsen	OL	6-4/290	Staten Island, N.Y./Brooklyn Poly Prep
Konrad Reuland	TE	6-6/239	San Capistrano, Calif./Mission Viejo
Chris Stewart	OL	6-5/340	Spring, Texas/Klein
Darrin Walls	DB	6-1/175	Pittsburgh/Woodland Hills
Dan Wenger	OL	6-4/285	Coral Springs, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas
*:	** Amon	the nation	s top 500 prospects
Sergio Brown	DB	6-1/184	Maywood, III./Proviso East
Jashaad Gaines	DB	6-0/195	Las Vegas/Las Vegas
Barry Gallup	WR	5-11/175	Wellesley, Mass./Belmont Hill
Leonard Gordon	DB	5-11/195	Clarksville, Tenn./Fort Campbell (Ky.)
Paddy Mullen	DL	6-5/265	St. Louis/DeSmet Jesuit
Robby Paris	WR-	6-4/185	Olmsted Falls, Ohio/St. Ignatius
Munir Prince	RB	5-10/175	Florissant, Mo./DeSmet Jesuit
Morrice Richardson	LB	6-2/228	College Park, Ga./Westlake
John Ryan	DL	6-5/240	Westlake, Ohio/St. Ignatius
Luke Schmidt	RB	6-3/230	Jasper, Ind./Jasper
Toryan Smith	LB	6-0/230	Rome, Ga./Rome
Kallen Wade	DL	6-5/220	Cincinnati/Withrow
Bartley Webb	OL	6-7/290	Springdale, Ark./Springdale
George West	WR	5-8/172	Spencer, Okla./Northeast
Will Yeatman	TE	6-6/255	San Diego/Rancho Bernardo

5-11/185

Wakarusa, Ind./Northwood

RATINGS BY RIVALS.COM

Biggest get: It's rare for an offensive lineman to play as a true freshman, but Sam Young could do it at what is a position of need. The nation's top offensive tackle prospect, Young is ready for action because of his outstanding technique and strength.

Biggest miss:
DT Gerald McCoy
(Oklahoma City, Okla./
Southeast) considered Notre
Dame until the end before signing with nearby Oklahoma. The
Irish wanted to bring in a
top defensive tackle, so losing
McCoy hurt.

Instant impact: Though Young is expected to play early, the biggest impact could come from TE Konrad Reuland. Charlie Weis likes to use tight ends, so Reuland could see the field early because of the premature departure of Anthony Fasano to the NFL. Reuland is an advanced blocker with good hands. He chose Notre Dame over Southern California, among others.

Diamond in the rough: Kallen Wade has the frame to become the type of defensive end that college and NFL teams covet. He has quickness and long arms and is a raw but effective pass rusher. But because Wade pledged early, he got lost in the hype that surrounds recruits who commit late in the process.

Battleground: Notre Dame's battleground is the entire nation. That wasn't always the case during the Ty

Willingham era. The Irish pulled out top players from California, Florida and Texas. And Notre Dame got back into the Chicago public school system with a commitment from QB Demetrius Jones. The Irish also did an excellent job re-establishing their presence in Ohio's Catholic schools.

Fun facts: Weis signed six top 100 prospects, more than Willingham did in his three years in South Bend. ... Notre Dame reeléd in the best offensive line class in the country. ... OL Chris Stewart weighs 340 pounds but can do the splits, ... Notre Dame signed three sets of teammates—OLs Young and Dan Wenger; DL Paddy Mullen and RB Munir Prince; and WR Robby Paris and DL John Ryan.

-Mike Farrell, Rivals.com

Ryan Burkhart

RUSHING		Att.	,	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Darius Walker		253	1	,196	4.7	9
Travis Thomas		63		248	3.9	5
PASSING	Comp.	Att.	Pcf	. Yds.	TD	Int.
Brady Quinn	292	450	64.9	3,919	32	7
RECEIVING		Rec		Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jeff Samardzija		77	19	1,249	16.2	15
Darius Walker		43		351	8.2	2
John Carlson		7		56	8.0	1
KICK/PUNT RET	JRNS	N	lo.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Tom Zbikowski		i i	28	369	13.2	2
David Grimes			16	355	22.2	0
KICKING		XPM 2	KPA	FGM	FGA	Pts.
Carl Gioia		2	2	1	1	5
TACKLES	Solo	Assist	s	Total	TFL/	Yds.
Ambrose Wooden	61	13		74		0
Tom Zbikowski	42	29		71	1/	10
Mike Richardson	50	16		66	5/	26
Maurice Crum	32	25		57	3.5	/5
Chinedum Ndukwe	31	21		52	2.5	/5
Victor Abiamiri	34	14		48	15/	92

KEY LOSSES

Offense TE Anthony Fasano (47 rec., 576 yards, 2 TDs); K D.J. Fitzpatrick (11 of 17 FGs, 52 of 54 PATs); T Mark LeVoir; WR Matt Shelton (28 rec., 329 yards); G Dan Stevenson; WR Maurice Stovall (69 rec., 1,149 yards, 11 TDs).

Defense P D.J. Fitzpatrick (45 punts, 40.3 avg.); LB Brandon Hoyte (team-high 92 tackles, team-high 16.5 tackles for loss, 6 sacks); LB Corey Mays (80 tackles, 12.5 tackles for loss, 5 sacks).

2005 TEAM STATISTICS

	Average	Rank	
Rushing offense	147.1	55th nation	
Rushing defense	132.3	34th	
Passing offense	330.2	4th	
Passing defense	264.6	103rd	
Total offense	477.3	10th	
Total defense	396.9	75th	
Turnover differential	+10	15th	

2005 RESULTS (9-3)

at Pitt	W, 42-21	Tennessee	W, 41-21
at Michigan	W, 17-10	Navy	W, 42-21
Michigan State	L, 44-41 (OT)	Syracuse	W, 34-10
at Washington	W, 36-17	at Stanford	W, 38-31
at Purdue	W, 49-28	Ohio State*	L, 34-20
USC	L, 34-31	*Fiesta Bowl	
BYU	W, 49-23		

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04	Insig	III	1	-1	1	-1	7	1	1	1	3	1	- 1
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4	- 1		-1	-	7	-	+	-	- 1	-1	1	1	-
02	Gato	r II	1	1	-1	1	4	-1	- 1	- 1	1	1	1
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ш	GHTING IRISH	TOOR	FR		
	Name	Ht./Wt.	CI.	Exp.	
5	Justin Gillett	5-11/175	Jr.	IARTERB SQ	ACKS Santa Barbara, Calif./San Marcos
,	Dan Gorski	6-3/196	So.	SO	Omaha, Neb./Creighton Prep
)	Brady Quinn	6-4/231	Sr.	3L	Dublin, Ohio/Coffman
	Evan Sharpley	6-2/207	Fr.	RS	Marshall, Mich./Marshall
	David Wolke	6-2/196	Jr.	SQ	Mount Juliet, Tenn./Smyrna
			RU	NNING E	
	Matt Augustyn	6-3/220	Sr.	20	Chevy Chase, Md./Our Lady of Good Counse
	John Lyons	6-1/205	Sr.	20	Sioux Falls, S.D./O'Gorman
	Ashley McConnell	6-0/247	Jr.	50	Adairsville, Ga./Adairsville
_	Asaph Schwapp Travis Thomas	6-0/250 6-0/215	So.	1L 2L	Hartford, Conn./Weaver Washington, Pa./Washington
-	Darius Walker	5-10/208	Jr.	2L	Lawrenceville, Ga./Buford
	Dallas Mainel	3 10/200			CHT ENDS
	Chase Anastasio	6-2/203	Jr.	2L	Burke, Va./Robinson
-	Darrin Bragg	6-1/192	So.	SO	San Jose, Calif./Bellarmine Prep
	Craig Cardillo	6-0/175	Jr.	SO	Hauppauge, N.Y./Hauppauge
	John Carlson (TE)	6-6/254	Jr.	2L	Litchfield, Minn./Litchfield
	Brandon Erickson	6-0/178	Jr.	SQ	Mariboro, N.J./Mariboro
	Marcus Freeman (TE)	6-3/245	Sr.	3L	St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall
	David Grimes	6-0/170	So.	1L	Detroit/DePorres
	Tim Gritzman (TE)	6-4/250	Jr.	50	Lockport, III./Lockport
	D.J. Hord	6-1/198	So.	SO	Lee's Summit, Mo./Kansas City-Rockhurst
	Rhema McKnight	6-2/207	Sr.	4L so	Inglewood, Calif./La Palma-Kennedy
	Nick Possley Jeff Samardzija	6-1/183	Jr. Sr.	SO 3L	Wheaton, III./Warrenville South Valparaiso, Ind./Valparaiso
	Mike Talerico (TE)	6-5/245	Jr.	SO	St. Louis/University
	mike faterico (1L)	0 3/143		NSIVE L	Control of the Contro
	Dan Chervanick	6-1/259	Sr.	SO L	Leesport, Pa./Holy Name
-	THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T	6-7/292	So.	SO	Dallas, Ga./East Paulding
	Ryan Harris (T)	6-5/288	Sr.	3L	St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall
	Brian Mattes (G/T)	6-6/285	Sr.	1L	Larksville, Pa./Wyoming Valley West
	Bob Morton (C/G)	6-4/292	Sr.	3L	McKinney, Texas/McKinney
	Dan Santucci (G)	6-4/290	Sr.	3L	Chicago/St. Patrick's
_	John Sullivan (C)	6-4/298	Jr.	2L	Old Greenwich, Conn./Greenwich
	Jeff Tisak	6-3/305	So.	20	Ambridge, Pa./Duluth East
	Michael Turkovich (T/G)	6-6/290	So.	20	Bedford, Pa./Valley Forge Military Academy
	M. 1. M. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.			NSIVE L	
	Victor Abiamiri (E) Justin Brown (E)	6-4/260	Sr. So.	3L 1L	Randallstown, Md./Gilman School
	Casey Cullen (T)	6-3/247 6-1/238	Jr.	1L	Clinton, Md./Bishop McNamara Victoria, Texas/St. Joseph
	Chris Frome (E)	6-5/268	Sr.	1L	Saugus, Calif./Newhall Hart
	Derrell Hand (T)	6-3/301	Fr.	RS	Philadelphia/West Catholic
	Neil Kennedy	5-11/260	Jr.	SO	Phoenix/Brophy Prep
	Pat Kuntz (T)	6-2/267	So.	50	Indianapolis/Roncalli
	Derek Landri (T)	6-3/263	Sr.	3L	Concord, Calif./De La Salle
	Trevor Laws (T)	6-1/293	Jr.	2L	Burnsville, Minn./Apple Valley
	Dwight Stephenson (E/T)	6-2/252	Jr.	20	Delray Beach, Fla./Pope John Paul II
	Ronald Talley (E)	6-4/261	So.	1L	Detroit/Renaissance
				INEBACK	
	Abdel Banda	6-1/220	So.	50	Orange, N.J./Delbarton
	Nick Borseti	6-4/238	Jr.	1L	Saugus, Mass./St. John's Prep
	Joe Brockington Maurice Crum	6-1/212	Jr.	2L	Palmyra, Pa./Palmyra
	Steve Quinn	6-0/220	So.	1L 1L	Riverview, Fla./Tampa Bay Tech Cherry Hill, N.J./Philadelphia-St. Joseph's
	Scott Smith	6-3/234	So.	SO	Highland Park, III./Highland Park
	Mitchell Thomas	6-3/240	Jr.	1L	Opelika, Ala./Smiths Station
Ī	Anthony Vernaglia	6-3/221	So.	SO	Anaheim Hills, Calif./Orange Lutheran
	Kevin Washington	6-1/231	Fr.	RS	Sugar Land, Texas/Austin
			DEF	ENSIVE	BACKS
	David Bruton (FS)	6-2/187	So.	1L	Miamisburg, Ohio/Miamisburg
	Leo Ferrine (CB)	6-0/186	So.	1L	Springfield, N.J./St. Peter's Prep
-	Ray Herring (SS)	6-0/199	So.	1L	Melbourne, Fla./Holy Trinity
-	Wade lams	5-9/182	Jr.	02	Mishawaka, Ind./Penn
	Tim Kenney	6-0/180	Sr.	50	Belvidere, III./Belvidere
	Terrail Lambert (CB)	5-11/188	So.	1L pc	Oxnard, Calif./St. Bonaventure Youngstown, Ohio/Cardinal Mooney
	Kyle McCarthy (S) Chinedum Ndukwe (FS)	6-0/189	Fr. Sr.	RS 3L	Powell, Ohio/Dublin-Coffman
	Alvin Reynolds	5-10/180	Jr.	SO	Terre Haute, Ind./Charlotte Country Day
	Mike Richardson (CB)	5-11/193	Sr.	3L	Warner Robins, Ga./Warner Robins
	William David Williams	5-9/174	Jr.	SO	Raleigh, N.C./Millbrook
	Ambrose Wooden (CB)	5-11/197	Jr.	1L	Baltimore/Gilman School
F	Tom Zbikowski (SS)	6-0/208	Jr.	2L	Arlington Heights, III./Buffalo Grove
				PECIALI	
	Carl Gioia (K)	5-11/179	Jr.	20	Valparaiso, Ind./Valparaiso
	Carl Gioia (K) J.J. Jansen (SN)	5-11/179 6-3/242	Jr. Jr.	1L	Phoenix/Brophy Prep

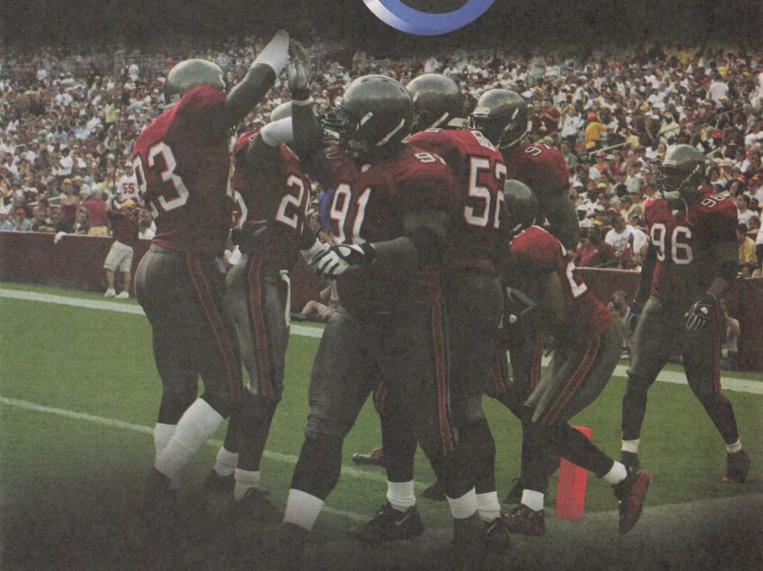
	at Ternessee	Sept. 10	at Wyaming	New Mexico	Many	Colorado State	at San Diego State	BNI SE	at Army	Notre Dane	WeV. 18	at UNLV (Fri, Nov. 24)
			-	1		(Thurs, Oct. 12)	-		(Fri, llov. 3)			at TCU (Sat, Dec. 2)
at Penn State	at N.C. State	at Central Michigan	North Texas	at Kent State	at Cincinnati		Mismi (Ohio)	at Toledo	Bowling Green	Daffaio Churs, Nov. 99	at Ohio (Thurs, Nov. 16)	Western Michigan (Fri. Nov. 24)
Hawaii	Vanderbilt	Louisiana-Monrae	at Arkansas	at Florida	Duke	Mississippi	at Tennessee	Florida International	Mississippi State	at LSU		
Bru	at LSU	Stephen F. Austin	USC	Washington	at UCLA	at Stanford	Oregon State		at Washington State	California	at Oregon	Arizona State
Northern Arizona (Thurs., Aug., 31)	Nevada	at Colorado	at California	Oregan		at USC	Stanford	at Washington	at Oregon State	Washington State	UCLA	at Arizona
COL	Utah State	at Vanderbilt	Mahama		at Aubum	SE Missouri State	Mestissippi	Louisiana-Morrae (Little Rock, Ark.)	at South Carolina	Temessee	at Mississippi State	LSU (Fri, Nov. 24, Little Back Ark)
Army	Oktahoma State (Little Rock, Ark.)		at SMU	at Fla. International	La-Monne	at Memphis	North Texas	at Florida Atlantic	at Aubum	Middle Ternessee	at Tray	at La-Lafayette
at Arkansas State	Kent State	at Texas Astill (Alamodome, San Antonio)	at Baylor	Rice	WI	at Connecticut	101	at Tulane	Air Force (Fri, Nov. 3)		at Notre Dame	vs. Navy (Sat., Dec. 2, Lincoln Froncial Field Philadelubia)
Washington State	at Mississippi State	TSI)	Buffish	at South Carolina (Thurs., Sent. 28)	Arkansas	Rorida	Tutane	at Mississippi	Arkansas State	Georgia	at Alabama	
Eastern Michigan (Thurs., Aug., 31)	Indiana	at Purfue	North Dakota State	Northern Minais	at Buffalo	at Central Michigan	Western Michigan	at Mismi (Ohio)	at Michigan		at Toledo (Tues, Nov. 14)	Kent State
TOU	Northwestern State	at Washington State (Owest Field, Seattle)	Acmy	Kansas State	at Colorado	at leras	Kansas	Texas A&W	at Texas Tech	at Okiahoma State	Oklahoma	
Sacramento-State (Thurs, Aug. 31)	Oregon State (Thurs, Sept. 7)	at Wyoming	Hawaii	at Utah	Louisiana Tech	at New Mexico State (Sun, Oct. 15)	at Idaho		Fresno State (Wed, Mor. 1)	at San Jose State	Utah State	at Nevada
at Central Michigan (Thurs., Aug. 31)	Clemson	R/A	at M.C. State	Name		Wriginia Tech (Thurs., Oct. 12)	at Florida State	Buffalo	at Wake Forest	Duke	Maryland	at Mami
vs. Wisconsin (Cleveland Browns Stadium, Cleveland)	Buffalo	at Fla. International	Kent State	at Ohio	at Ohio State	Eastern Michigan	at Central Michigan (Thurs., Oct. 19)	at Temple	at Akron		Mami (Ohia) (Med., Nor. 15)	at Toledo (Tues, Nev. 21)
Temple (Thurs, Aug. 31)	at Bowling Green	at Northern Minois	at Autum		Ball State	Mami (Ohio)	at Ohio	at Boston College	Kent State	at Alorgo (Thurs, Nov. 9)	at Wisconsin	Central Michigan (Fri. Nov. 24)
at Arizona	Tida	at Boston College	Utah State	at TCU (Thurs, Sept. 28)	San Diego State		UNULY	at Air Force	at Colorado State	Wyoming (Thurs, Nov. 9)	New Mexico	at Utah
at Tennessee	Minesota .	Portland State	Arizona State	at Oregon State	Oregon	at Weshington State	Washington		- UCLA	at Arizona	at USC	Stanford (Set. Dec. 2)
Boston College (Thurs, Aug. 31)	at Michigan	Akron	at Eastern Michigan	at Kentucky	at Tolech	Ball State	Bowling Green (Thurs, Oct. 19)		at Temple	Western Michigan (Fri, Nov. 10)	at Northern Illneis (Fri., Nov. TI)	at Buffalo (Fri., Nev. 24)
Eastern Kentucky	FF. Sert 8)	at Ohio State	at Virginia Tech	Mami (Ohio)	Aleran	at Louisville	South Planida	Syracuse		at West Virginia	Rutgers	at Connecticut
Roride Atlantic	at Boston College	at Florida State	North Carolina	Louisiana Tech	at Wake Forest	vs. Temple (Thurs, Oct 12, Bank of America Field, Charlotte)	Georgia Tech	at Virginia Tech (Thurs., Oct. 25)	Maryland	N.C. State		South Carolina
Montans State	vs. Colorado State (Invesco Field, Demer)	Arizona State	at Georgia	at Missouri	Baylor	Texas Tech	at Oklahoma	at Kansas	Kansas State	lows State		at Nebraska (Fri. Nov. 24)
Weber State	vs. Colorado (Invesco Field, Demer)	at Nevada		at Fresno State	UNITA	at Air Force (Thurs., Oct. 12)	at Wyoming	New Mexico	BYU	at Utah		TCU at San Diego State (Sat. Dec. 2)
Rhode Island (Thurs, Aug. 31)		Wake Forest	at Indiana	Navy	at South Flands	Army	West Virginia (Fri., Oct. 20)	at Rutgers ·		Pitt	at Syracuse	Cincinnati at Louisville (Sat, Dec. 2)
Richmond	at Wake Forest	at Virginia Tech		Virginia	at Alabama	Florida State	Mani	Vanderbilt	Kary	at Boston College	at Georgia Tech	
at Navy	at UAB	Memphis	West Virginia		Virginia	Tuks	SWU	at Southern Miss	at UCF	Warshall	at Rice	at N.C. State
at Ball State (Thurs, Aug. 31)	at Michigan State	at Northwestern	Central Michigan	at La-Lafayette		at Bowling Green	Toledo	at Western Michigan	Ohio	Many	at Kent State	Northern Whois (Fri, Nov. 24)
Southern Mississippi	Central Rorida	at Tennessee	Kentucky	Alabama	LSU	at Aubrun		vs. Georgia (ALLTEL Stadium, Jacksonville)	at Vanderbill	South Carolina	Western Carolina	at Florida State
at Clenson	at Kansas State	at Oklahoma State	at South Carolina	at La-Monree			La-Lafayette (Wed, Oct. 18)	Arkansas State	at Middle Tennessee	Tray	at North Texas	vs. Fla. International (Pro Player Stadium, Miam.)
at Middle Ternessee (Thurs, Aug. 31)	at South Florids	Bowling Green	at Manyand	Arkansas State	at North Texas	at Marri		at Mahama	La-Morroe		La-Lafayette	vs. Florigia Atlantic (Pro Player Stadium, Marm) Trov (Sat. Dec. 2)
at Mami (Mon., Sept. 4)	Tray	Clemson	Rice		at N.C. State (Thurs, Oct. 5)	at Duke	Boston College	at Maryland	Virginia	Wale Forest	Western Michigan	Florida
Nerada (Fri., Sept. 1)	Oregon	at Washington		Colorado State	at Utah State	Hanaii	at LSU		at Boise State (Wed, Nov. 1)	New Mexico State	ldsho	at Lauksiana Tech (Frt, Nov. 24) at San Jose State

at Memphis at Frezno State San Jose State at Northwestern at Minnesoto Missuri Manss State at Missuri
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Tides Mercita Ohio State of Minnesota Mothwestern Kanses at fowe State
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at Lucisians Tech Boine State Ohio at Penn State at Chin State at Unicipien at Unicipien at Unicipien at Okkhorna Okkhorna State at Baylur
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isonsin at limas tio State Purdue Turthern town Nebrasko Nebraska Texas A&M
at Illinuis Ohio State at Texas Auritem Jowa Sauth Florida at Nebraska
at Toledo Sauth
Northwestern State La-Homme
KANSAS STATE Illinois State KENT STATE Vincessta

Team	Sept. 4	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	00.7	Oct 14	OC. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
NEW MEXICO	Portland State	at New Mexico State	Missouri	ULEP	at Air Force	Wyoming	at UNILY	Utah (Thurs, Oct. 19)	at Colorado State		TCU	DAR DE	San Diego State
NEW MEXICO STATE	SE Louisiana (Thurs., Aug. 31)	New Mexico	Texas Southern		at UTEP	at Idaho	Brise State (Sun. Oct. 15)	Hawaii	at Newada	San Jose State	at Fresno State		at Utah State Lonisions Tech (Sat The: 2)
NORTH CAROLINA	Rutgers	Virginia Tech	Furman	at Clemson		at Mami	South Florida	at Virginia (Thurs, Oct. 19)	Wake Forest	at Notre Dame	Georgia Tech	N.C. State	at Duke
N.C. STATE	Appalachian State	Akm	at Southern Miss	Boston College		Plurida State (Thurs. Oct. 5)	Wate Forest	at Maryland	at Vinginia	Georgia Tech	at Clemson	at North Carolina	East Carolina
NORTH TEXAS	at lerss	SWU	at Tuks	at More	Widdle Tennessee	Rig. International		at Arkansas State	at Tray	Louisiana Tech	at La-Lafayette	Florida Atlantic	at LaWenne
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	_	Ohio	Buffalo	Indiana State	at Ball State	at Miami (Ohio)	at Western Michigan	Temple	at lowa		Toledo (Tues, Nov. 7)	Central Michigan (Fri., Nov. TI)	at Eastern Michigan (Fri, Nov. 24)
NORTHWESTERN	at Mami (Ohio) (Thurs, Aug. 31)	New Hampshire	Eastern Wichigan	at Nenada (Fri, Sept. 22)	at Penn State	at Wisconsin	Purdue	Michigan State	at Michigan	at lows	Ohio State	Eneis	
NOTRE DAME	at Georgia Tech	Penn State	Michigan	at Michigan State	Purdue	Stanford		UCLA	at Nary (MaT Bank Stadium, Baltimore)	North Carolina	at Air Force	Amy	at USC
ONIO	Ternessee-Wartin	at Northern Minois	at Rutgers	at Missouri	Bowling Green	Western Michigan	at llinois	Buffalo	at Kent State	at Eastern Michigan		Aloren Charres New 163	at Mami (Ohio) (Fri Nov 24)
OHIO STATE	Northern Ulinois	म हिरदह	Cincinnati	Penn State	at lowa	Bowling Green	at Michigan State	Indiana	Winnesota	at lilinois	at Northwestern	Michigan	free more and
OKLAHOMA .	UAB	Washington	at Oregon	Middle Temessee		vs. Texas (Cotton Bowl, Dallas)	Iowa State	Colerado	at Missouri	at Texas A&M	Teras Tech	at Baylar	at Oklahoma State
OKLAHOMA STATE	Missouri State	at Ariansas State	Florida Atlantic	at Houston		at Kansas State	at Kansas	Texas A&M	Nebrasia	at Texas	Baylor	at Tercas Tech	Оканота
OREGON	Stanford	at Fresno State	Oktahoma		at Arizona State	at California	UCLA	at Washington State	Portland State	Washington	at USC	Arcons	at Oregan State
OREGON STATE	Eastern Washington (Thurs. Aug. 31)	at Boise State (Thurs, Sent, 7)		idaha	California	Washington State	at Washington	at Arizona	380	Arizona State	at UCLA	at Stanford	Oregan at Hawaii (Sat. Dec. 2)
PENN STATE	Akron	at Notre Dame	Youngstown State	at Ohio State	Northwestern	at Winnesota	Michigan	Illnois	at Purdue	at Wisconsin	Temple	Michigan State	
FILL	Virginia	at Cincinnati (Fri. Sept. 8)	Michigan State	The Citadel	Toledo.	at Syracuse	at UCF (Fit, Oct. 13)	Putpers		at South Florida	at Connecticut	West Virginia (Thurs, Nov. 16)	Louisville
PURDUE	Indiana State	Mami (Ohio)	Ball State	Minesota	at Notre Dame	at lows	at Northwestern	Wiscensin	Penn State	at Michigan State	at limois	Indiana	at Hawaii
RICE	Houston	at UCLA	ns. Terzo (Reliant Stadum, Haustim)	at Florida State	at Army	at Tidane	na8	at UCF		at UTEP	at Tuksa	East Caraina	SMU
RUTGERS	at North Carelina	Eneis	Olio	Howard	at South Florida (Fri, Sept. 29)		at Navy	配報	Connecticut		Louisville (Thurs, Nov. 9)	at Cincinnati	Syracuse at West Virginia (Set. Dec. 2)
SAN DIEGO STATE	(Thurs, Aug. 31)		at Wisconsin	Utah	at San Jose State	at BYU		Air Force	Cal Poly	at Wyoming	UNILY	at TCU	at New Mexico Colorado State (Set., Dec. 2)
SAN JOSE STATE	at Washington	Stanford		Cal Poly	San Diego State		Utah State	at Nevada	Lauisiara Tech	at New Mexico State	Boise State	at Hawaii	at Idaho Fresno State (Sat., Dec. 2)
SMU	at lexas lech	at North Texas	Sem Houston State	-Arkansas State	at Tulane	at UTEP	Marshall	at East Carolina		(Tues. Oct. 31)	Houston	Tiles	at Nos
SOUTH CAROLINA	at Mississippi State (Thurs. Ann. 31)	Georgia	Wefford	Flurida Atlantic	Authur (Thurs, Sent 28)	at Kentucky		at Vanderbilt	Termessee	Arkansas	at Florida	Middle Tennessee	at Clemson
SOUTH FLORIDA	McNecse State	Pla. International	at UCF	at Kansas	Rutgers (Fri. Sept. 29)	Connecticut	at North Carolina	at Cincimati	10.	甚	Syracuse	at Louisville	at West Virginia
SOUTHERN MISS	at Florida	SE Louisiana	M.C. State		at UCF (Tues, Sept. 26)	at Tulsa (Tues, Oct. 3)	Houston	at Virginia Tech	East Carolina	at Wemphis	at Tulane	UAB	Marshall
STANFORD	at Dregon	at San Jose State	Many	Washington State	at UCLA	at Notre Dame	Arizona	at Arizona State		707	at Washington	Oregon State	at California (Sat., Dec. 2)
SYRACUSE	at Wake Forest	lona	at Emois	Miami (Ohio)	Wyoming	是	at West Virginia	Louisville	at Cincinnati		at South Florida	Connecticut	at Rutgers
TCU	at Baylor		Teras Tech		Bru (Murs., Sept. 28)	at Utah (Thurs, Oct. 5)		at Army	Wysming	at UNILY	at New Mexico	San Diego State	at Colorado State Air Force (Sat., Dec. 2)
TEMPLE	at Buffalo (Thurs, Aug. 31)	Louisville	at Winnessta	at Western Michigan	at Vanderbilt	Kent State	vs. Clemson (Thurs, Oct. 12, Bank of America Field, Charlottle)	at Northern Minois	Bowling Green	Central Michigan	at Penn State	at Navy	
TENNESSEE	California	Air Force	Renide	Marshall	at Wemphis	at Georgia		Alabama	at South Carolina	ISU	at Arienses	at Vanderhilt	Kentucky
TEXAS	North Texas	Ohio State	vs. Rice (Relient Stadium, Houston)	lowa State	Sam Houston State	vs. Oktahema (Cetton Bewl, Dalles)	Baylor	at Netraska	at Texas Tech	Oklahoma State	at Kansas State	4	Texas A&W (Fri, Nov. 24)
TEXAS A&M	The Citadei	Louisiana-Lafayette	Army (Alamedeme, San Antonie)	Louisiana Tech	leras Tech	at Kansas	Missouri	at Oktahoma State	at Baylor	Oklahoma	Nebraska		at Texas (Fri, Nov. 24)
TEXAS TECH	SMU	at UTEP	at TCU	SE Louisiana	at Texas A&M	Missouri	at Colorado	at lona State	Texas	Baylor	at Oktahama	Oklahoma State	
INTEND	at lowe State (Thurs, Aug. 31)	at Western Michigan	Nancas (Fri, Sept. 15)	McNeese State	it is	Central Michigan	at Nent Wate	at Eastern Michigan	Akron		at Northern Imnos (Tues, Nov. 7)	(Totas, Nov. 14)	Clues, Nov. 21)

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Team	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
TROY	Alabama State	at Florida State	at Georgia Tech	at Nebraska	at UAB		La-Monroe		North Texas	LaLafayette	at Florida Atlantic	Arkansas State	at Middle Tennessee at Fla. International (Sat., Dec. 2)
TULANE		at Houston	at Mississippi State	at LSU	SMU	Rice	at UTEP	at Aubum	Атпу	at Marshall	Southern Miss	UCF	at Tulsa (Fri., Nov. 24)
TULSA	Stephen F. Austin (Thurs., Aug. 31)	at BYU	North Texas	at Navy		Southern Miss (Tues,, Oct. 3)	at East Carolina	at Memphis	UTEP (Fri, Oct. 27)	at Houston	Rice	at SMU	Tulane (Fri, Nov. 24)
UAB	at Oklahoma	East Carolina	at Georgia	Mississippi State	Tray	Memphis	at Rice	Marshall		at SMU (Tues,, Oct. 31)	UTEP (Fri, Nov. 10)	at Southern Miss	at UCF
UCF	Villanova	at Florida	South Florida		Southern Miss (Tues., Sept. 26)	at Marshall (Wed, Oct. 4)	Pitt (Fri, Oct. 13)	Rice	at Houston	East Carolina	at Memphis	at Tulane	UAB
UCLA	Utah	Rice		at Washington	Stanford	Arizona	at Oregon	at Notre Dame	Washington State	at California	Oregon State	at Arizona State	USC (Sat, Dec. 2)
UNEV	Idaho State	at lowa State	at Hawaii		Nevada	at Colorado State	New Mexico	at BYU	at Utah	TCU	at San Diego State	Wyorning	Air Force (Fri., Nov. 24)
SU	at Arkansas		Nebraska	at Arizona	at Washington State	Washington	Anzona State		at Oregon State	at Stanford	Oregon	California	Notre Dame at UCLA (Sat., Dec. 2)
ИТАН	at UCLA	Northern Arizona	at Utah State	at San Diego State	Boise State	· TCU (Thurs, Oct. 5)	at Wyoming	at New Mexico (Thurs., Oct. 19)	UNLY		Colorado State	at Air Force	BYU
UTAH STATE	at Wyoming	at Arkansas	Utah	at BYU	Idaho	Fresno State	at San Jose State	at Louisiana Tech		Hawaii	at Nevada	at Boise State	New Mexico State
UTEP	at San Diego State (Thurs, Aug. 31)	Texas Tech		at New Mexico	New Mexico State	SMU	Tulane	at Houston	at Tulsa (Fri, Oct. 27)	Rice	at UAB (Fri,, Nov. 10)	at Marshall	Memphis
VANDERBILT	at Michigan	at Alabama	Arkansas	Tennessee State	Temple	at Mississippi	at Georgia	South Carolina	at Duke	Florida	at Kentucky	Tennessee	
VIRGINIA	at Pitt	Wyoming	Western Michigan	at Georgia Tech (Thurs., Sept. 21)	at Duke	at East Carolina	Maryland	North Carolina (Thurs., Oct. 19)	N.C. State	at Florida State		Mismi	at Virginia Tech
VIRGINIA TECH	Northeastern	at North Carolina	Duke	Cincinnati	Georgia Tech		at Boston College (Thurs., Oct. 12)	Southern Miss	Clemson (Thurs, Oct. 26)	at Miami	Kent State	at Wake Forest	Virginia
WAKE FOREST	Syracuse	Duke	at Connecticut	at Mississippi	Liberty	Clemson	at N.C. State		at North Carolina	Boston College	at Florida State	Virginia Tech	at Maryland
WASHINGTON	San Jose State	at Oklahoma	Fresno State	UCLA	at Arizona	at USC	Oregon State	at California	Arizona State	at Oregon	Stanford	at Washington State	
WASHINGTON STATE	at Aubum	Idaho	Baylor (Qwest Field, Seattle)	at Stanford	nsc	at Oregon State	California	Oregon	at UCLA	Arizona	at Arizona State	Washington	
WEST VIRGINIA	Marshall	Easterm Washington	Maryland (Thurs, Sept. 14)	at East Carolina		at Mississippi State	Syracuse	at Connecticut (Fri., Oct. 20)		at Louisville (Thurs, Nov. 2)	Cincinnati	at Pitt (Thurs, Nov. 16)	South Florida Rutgers (Sat., Dec. 2)
WESTERN MICHIGAN	at Indiana	Toledo	at Virginia	Temple		at Ohio	Northern Winois	at Ball State	Eastern Michigan	Mismi (Ohio)	at Central Michigan (Fri., Nov. 10)	at Florida State	at Akron (Fri., Nov. 24)
WISCONSIN	vs. Bowfing Green (Cleveland Browns (Stadium, Cleveland)	Western Illinois	San Diego State	at Michigan	at Indiana	Northwestern	Minnesota	at Purdue	Illinois	Penn State	at lowa	Buffalo	-
WYOMING	Utah State	at Virginia	Boise State	Air Force	at Syracuse	at New Mexico	Utah	Colorado State	at TCU	San Diego State	at BYU (Thurs, Nov. 9)	at UNLY	

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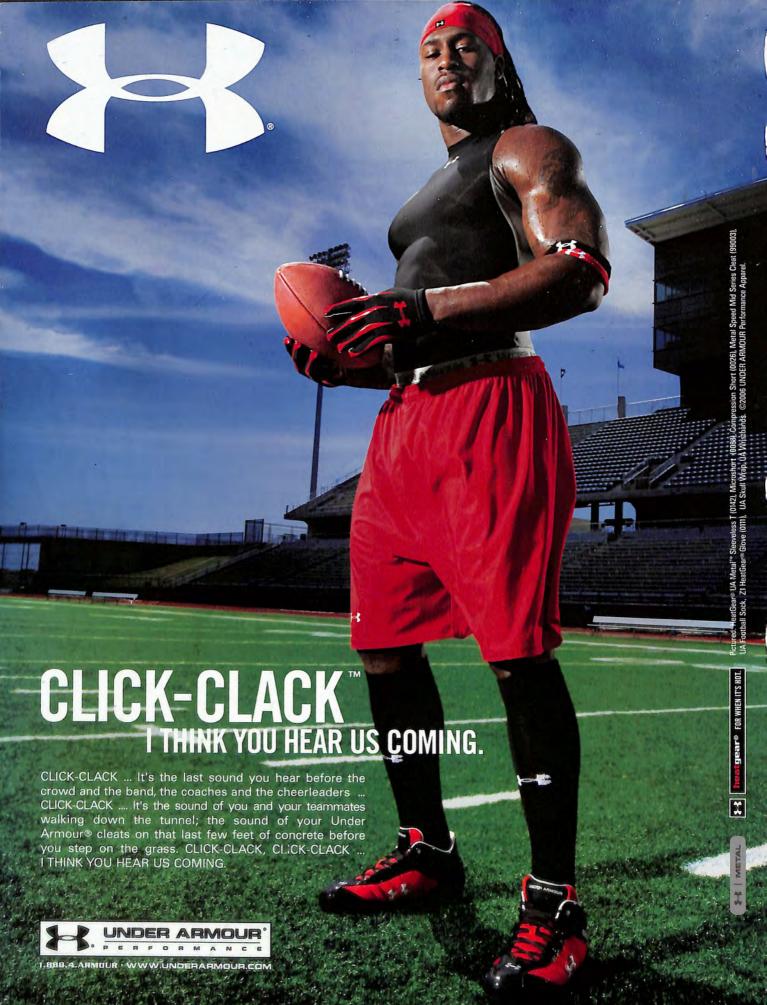
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